

The Kosciuszko Chair

2011-2002 Report

A BRIEF HISTORY

It has been four years since the Kosciuszko Chair in Polish Studies was established at the Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia. A brainchild of Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Ronald Trzcinski, and many other friends, the Kosciuszko Chair became reality because of the dedication of Professor Kenneth Thompson, former director of the Miller Center, and his successor Professor Philip Zelikow. Nobel Peace Prize winner Lech Walesa attended the Kosciuszko Chair inaugural ceremony of October 16, 1998, in Charlottesville.

In September 2000, Professor Wojciech Roszkowski became the first Chairholder, a position he held until August 2002. In May 2001 he was joined by Dr. Marek Jan Chodakiewicz, who has held assistant professorship with the Kosciuszko Chair since. From 2000, we have taught several classes and seminars as well as given over a dozen of lectures and presentations at UVA and elsewhere. We have brought several renowned scholars and public personae to deliver speeches at UVA. We have researched for several projects and submitted numerous papers and a few scholarly works for publication. Meanwhile, in December 2001 we published the first issue of *Nihil Novi: Bulletin of The Kosciuszko Chair in Polish Studies*. We are in the process of publishing the next issue of *Nihil Novi*.

THE 2001-2002 AT HOME AND AWAY

During the Fall 2001 and Spring 2002 semesters, Professor Roszkowski mostly kept the fort, concentrating on the Chair activities at home. In Spring 2002, he taught a class on "Poland in the 20th Century" and delivered a guest lecture on constitutionalism. He also spoke about "The Long-Term Political Consequences of the Treaty of Riga for Eastern Europe" at the American Association for Advancement of Slavic Studies Conference in Washington D.C., November 15, 2001, and about "Polish Paradoxes: On Recent Elections, Memory, and International Context of a Post-Communist Country" at Virginia Technical University, Blacksburg, on April 17, 2002. Mostly, however, the Chairholder focused on his monumental Biographical Dictionary of East and Central Europe in the Twentieth Century, a gargantuan research project.

Meanwhile, Dr. Chodakiewicz was active at home and roamed far and wide. He wrote a number of biographical entries for the dictionary and worked on his monographs, scholarly papers, and articles as well as taught students and researched for several projects. He also delivered a number of lectures. Specifically, in February 2002, Dr. Chodakiewicz spoke about "The Jewish Massacre in Jedwabne: Forensic Evidence," at the Fernbach International Affairs presentation (UVA). Later that month, he guest lectured at University of Miami on "From Stalinism to Pluralism: The Case of Poland." In March, Dr. Chodakiewicz was privileged to deliver the first Dekaban Lecture at St. Mary's College of Ave Maria University, Orchard Lake, MI. The topic was "Accommodation, Collaboration, and Resistance in Poland, 1939-1947." In April, he spoke about "A Theory of Choices and the Methodology of a Case Study: A Polish County, 1939-1947," at the Center for the Study of Culture, Rice University, Houston, TX. All the while, throughout the Spring 2002 semester, Dr. Chodakiewicz taught a UVA seminar on the Second World War, "Hitler's War, Stalin's Victory".

Our summer was equally busy. In June 2002, Professor Roszkowski taught a class on "Poland in the 20th Century" at the Summer School, Polish Institute of Christian Culture, Rome, Italy. Later, he went to Poland to continue researching and writing his Biographical Dictionary.

In late May and June, Dr. Chodakiewicz traveled to Poland, where, at the University of Warsaw, he and Dr. Barbara Fedyszak-Radziejowska (Polish Academy of Sciences – PAN) debated publicly Poland's accession to the European Union. The topic of his speech was "Poland: America's Israel in Europe?" Published also in this issue of *Good News*. Later, at the Respublica student fraternity headquarters, he lectured on "The Jewish-Polish Historiography after Jedwabne." Next, in Gdansk, Dr. Chodakiewicz participated in the making of a TV documentary on a far-right underground organization, the National Armed Forces, which fought against the Nazis and Communists during the Second World War.

Also in June, back in the US, Dr. Chodakiewicz attended the 65th Annual PIASA Conference at Georgetown University, Washington, DC. He presented two papers there: "Doom and Survival: The Plight of the Jewish Community in the Krasnik Area,

1939-1947" and "Ordinary Terror: Jedwabne in the Aftermath of the Massacre, August 1941-January 1949." The former paper was read for a panel "Polish Jewish History on the Local Level." It was organized by Professor Thaddeus Radzilowski, President of St. Mary's College of Ave Maria University. Dr. Chodakiewicz's other paper was delivered at the panel "Jedwabne: A Scientific Analysis." The participants in the panel included Mrs. Zofia Korbonska, who fought in the WW2 underground; Iwo C. Pogonowski, who spent over 5 years in Nazi prisons and concentration camps and is a prominent Polonian pundit; Professor Jan Moor Jankowski, who participated in the underground and later became world-famous scientist at the New York University School of Medicine, and Charles Chotkowski, Director of Research, Holocaust Documentation Committee, Polish American Congress, and member of the executive board of National Polish American - Jewish American Council. The panel was chaired by Thaddeus Mirecki, President, Washington Metropolitan Area Division, PAC.

RESEARCH AND WRITING

As mentioned, Professor Roszkowski has been hard at work on Biographical Dictionary of East and Central Europe in the Twentieth Century. About 1,600 biographical entries are ready, including over 400 written by Professor Roszkowski himself. Over 300 of the entries have been translated into the English. Professor Roszkowski also contributed twelve essays to *Azymut*, a supplement to the popular Catholic weekly *Niedziela*. In addition, he granted three interviews (*Znak*, August 2001, and *Zycie*, 22 September 2001 and 9 July 2002), concerning the American academia in general and the Kosciuszko Chair at UVA in particular. Last but not least, Professor Roszkowski wrote "After Neighbors: Seeking Universal Standards" for *The Slavic Review* (Fall 2002), which is an important corrective to a rather one-sided American debate on the massacre of the Jewish population of Jedwabne in July 1941.

During the school year and, especially, during the summer, aside from plunging into several document collections in Poland, Dr. Chodakiewicz traveled to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives (USHMMA) in Washington, DC, the Archives of the Polish

Museum of America in Chicago (APMA), IL, and the Hoover Institution Archives (HIA), Stanford, CA.

In addition, Dr. Chodakiewicz continued with his individual writing projects. These included *Between Nazis and Soviets: A Case Study of Occupation Policies in Poland, 1939-1947*, which has been approved for publication and has to be submitted to the publisher by January 1, 2003; and *The Massacre in Jedwabne, July 10, 1941: Before, During, and After*, which is essentially completed and awaits its approval by a publisher and subsequent editorial changes as suggested by readers.

The same concerns two other works: *Polish Transformation: A Process Completed or Still in Progress*, which contains papers on Poland after 1989 by Professor Roszkowski, Professor Dick Howard (UVA), Dr. Zbigniew Stawrowski (PAN), Professor Edmund Wnuk-Lipinski (PAN), Professor Krzysztof Jasiewicz (Washington and Lee University), Dr. John Radzilowski, Dr. Dariusz Tolczyk (UVA), and Dr. Chodakiewicz (the last three scholars co-edited the collection); *Catholic and Right: Essays on Spanish and Polish Traditionalism in the 19th and 20th Centuries*, which is co-edited by Dr. Chodakiewicz and Dr. Radzilowski and contains contributions by Professor Ewa Thompson (Rice University), Professor Alexandra Wilhelmsen (University of Dallas), Professor Carolyn Boyd (University of California, Riverside), Dr. Boyd Cathey (Division of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources, State of North Carolina), Dr. Radzilowski, and Dr. Chodakiewicz. The foreword will be supplied by Professor Eugene Genovese (former President, The Historical Society, Boston University).

Finally, between January and November 2002, Dr. Chodakiewicz submitted over 20 scholarly essays and popular articles to Polish-language periodicals and newspapers, including *Fronda*, *Arcana*, *Glaukopis*, *Wież*, *Radzynski Rocznik Humanistyczny*, *Rzeczpospolita*, *Najwyższy Czas!*, and *Gazeta Polska*.

We'd like to thank all the Friends of the Kosciuszko Chair whose generous contributions made our travel, research, and writing possible. We couldn't have done it without you.

I am sure you will agree with me that more books and articles on Polish topics should be published. Please consider making a generous donation to the publishing fund that has been established especially for that purpose. You can make your checks

payable to The Miller Center Foundation (for the Kosciuszko Chair publishing fund) and mail your check to

OUR ESTEEMED GUESTS

The generosity of the FKC allowed us also to co-sponsor The Polish Speakers Series with the Miller Center (Professor Kenneth Thompson) and the Center of Russian and East European Studies (Professor Allan Lynch) at UVA. We hosted several eminent scholars.

Three events took place on the central grounds of UVA. On November 13, 2001, Professor Piotr Wandycz (Yale University, emeritus) delivered a lecture on "Poland Today and Before the War: Contrasts and Similarities." On March 5, 2002, Professor Ewa Thompson spoke about "Ways of Remembering: The Case of Poland." On April 12, 2002, Professor Clare Cavanagh (Northwestern University) explored "The Limits of Lyric: Western Theory and Post-war Polish Practice."

Four other events took place as Miller Center forum. On May 6, 2002, Dr. John Radzilowski considered "The Dead Hand of the Past: Polish-Russian Relations at the Turn of the 21st Century." On May 9, Polish and Slovak Ambassadors to the US, Przemyslaw Grudzinski and Martin Butora, explained to us the intricacies of "Central Europe and Transatlantic Relations after September 11." On June 2, Professor Michal Buchowski focused on "Shifting Identities and Fixing Borders: A Creation of the Other in Europe Today." On September 13, Professor Wieńczysław Joseph Mario Wagner von Igelgrund zum Zornstein and Professor Julian Kulski shared with us their recollections about fighting the Nazis during the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

We also held two separate events at Miller Center West. On May 3, 2002, Dr. Krzysztof Koehler of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow and a visiting lecturer at the University of Illinois in Chicago talked about "Carrying the Burden of Freedom: Some Thoughts on Polish Literature After Ten Years of Political Freedom." On September 6, we gathered in the Ulam room to reminisce about the brilliant mathematician Stanislaw Ulam and his brother Adam, who was an eminent Sovietologist at Harvard University. We also talked about the co-operation between Leopolis Press (which was founded by the Ulams) and the Kosciuszko Chair. Our guests included Dr. Nina Gladziuk (Polish Academy of Sciences and a Jeffersonian fellow at Monticello), Robert Johnston, John Tytus, Joseph Liberman, and others. The event was chaired by Mrs. Molly Ulam, Adam's widow.

Last but not least, the Kosciuszko Chair sponsored an exhibition of paintings by Anna M. Roszkowska. "Seen from a distance: Metaphysical Landscapes" opened in the Newcomb Hall Gallery, UVA, on January 26, and closed on March 25, 2002. The opening night reception was graced by the music of Frideric Chopin and Henryk Wieniawski performed by the Karkowski Sisters Duo. Anna (violin) graduated from Julliard, while Katarzyna (piano) from the Warsaw Conservatory. The artists can be contacted through their web site: www.karkowskaduo.org.

We would like to thank cordially our esteemed friends for having contributed intellectual stimulation, artistic panache, and vibrant dynamism to the activities of the Kosciuszko Chair

STUDENTS

Last but not least, there are the KC students. Prof. Roszkowski's lecture course attracted 40 students, while 14 (2 over the usual limit) enrolled in Dr. Chodakiewicz's seminar

We also hosted two graduate students from Poland: Sebastian Bojemski (February-April 2002) and Wojciech Jerzy Muszyński (June-September 2002). Both were researching, writing, auditing classes, and learning the US university library system, including the Internet. They also took care of various administrative tasks at the Kosciuszko Chair office and put together a mailing database for our purposes.

In addition, Sebastian conducted a number of oral interviews with Polish WW2 veterans, in particular the participants of the Warsaw Uprising (1944) and researched at the Piłsudski Institute, New York, the Polonia Archives, St. Mary's College of Ave Maria University, and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). The fruit of his research was published in Poland by *Glaukopis* in August 2002: They went into the flood: The National Armed Forces in the Warsaw Uprising, 1944 (Poszli w sklerpowodzi: Narodowe Siły Zbrojne w Powstaniu Warszawskim, 1944).

Wojciech researched at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago and at the Hoover Institution Archives at Stanford, California. He spent much of the time annotating the anthology of Polish underground press (1939-1949), co-edited jointly with Dr. Chodakiewicz.

We are hoping to see more interns send our way and, especially, more UVA student-volunteers. The Kosciuszko Chair

needs you!

THE KOSCIUSZKO CHAIR PLANS

We plan big and aim to carry out our plans in 100%. So far we have been quite successful in most of our endeavors: teaching, research, writing, and networking. We plan to continue in this manner into the future. As far as teaching is concerned, in the Spring 2003 semester, Dr. Chodakiewicz will take over from Professor Roszkowski the lecture course on modern Polish history. It will now be offered as "Poland and East Central Europe since 1918". The students will be able to familiarize themselves not only with the Poles, but also their neighbors, thus placing Poland's vicissitudes in their historical context. Further, we have been cooperating with the History Department at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, to develop survey class on Western Civilization expanded to include Polish contributions and possibly a lecture class on the history of Poland. Dr. Chodakiewicz will teach both of them during the 2003 summer school session at LMU. We count on the local Polonia to check the schedule and enroll!

We are literally swamped with a number of research and writing projects, which we shall continue pursuing during the 2002-2003 academic year. In addition to our work on the Biographical Dictionary, we should soon start writing a textbook in modern Polish history based upon our research and lecture notes. Next, although we have prepared and edited content material for the web site of the Kościuszko Chair, we still need to design the web site itself and anchor it in the cyberspace (any techy volunteers?). We also need to put out all monographs and essay collections that we have prepared for publication: Polish Transformation: A Process Completed or Still in Progress; Catholic and Right: Essays on Spanish and Polish Traditionalism in the 19th and 20th Centuries; Between Nazis and Soviets: A Case Study of Occupation Policies in Poland, 1939-1947; and The Massacre in Jedwabne, July 10, 1941: Before, During, and After. We should also have a bi-lingual (English and Polish) volume of the Ulam family correspondence, titled Anxiously from Lwów, ready for publication by Leopold Press in the Spring of 2003. We have also been assisting Leopold Press with several projects, including the memoirs of Helen Davis, the wife of former US Ambassador to Poland, John Davis. An astute and witty observer, Mrs. Davis was an eye-witness to the events leading to the fall of Communism and the advent of freedom in Poland in 1989.

Last but not least, we hope to organize a conference on Poland and the European Union and a symposium on Thomas Jefferson and Tadeusz Kościuszko. And if there's any spare time left (he, he), we plan to commence a new research project in the National Archives in the Fall 2003. The project concerns the relationship of the US intelligence community with East Central Europe, Poland in particular (1939-1955). We would like to look at the newly declassified materials concerning agents and secret operations sponsored and conducted by the Americans in Poland, East Central Europe, and elsewhere in the world with Polish resources and personnel.

THE KOSCIUSZKO CHAIR PLANS

Professor Roszkowski:

- "After Neighbors: Seeking Universal Standards," *The Slavic Review* 61, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 460-65.
- "Świat XX wieku," [The World of the 20th Century] in *Wielki atlas historyczny* (Warszawa 2002), 211-214.
- "Martyrology of Christian Churches in East Central Europe in the Years 1944-1956" in *Churches in the Century of Totalitarian Systems* (Lublin 2001), vol. 2: 24-46.
- "Bydgoski marzec - więcej pytań niż odpowiedzi," [The Bydgoszcz March: More questions than answers] in: *Marzec 1981: Perspektywa "społeczeństwa obywatelskiego"* (Bydgoszcz 2001), pp. 23-32.
- "Rzady koalicji Sojuszu Lewicy Demokratycznej i Polskiego Stronnictwa Ludowego" [The coalition government of the Democratic Left Alliance and the Polish Peasant Party] in *Dziesięciolecie Polski Niepodległej 1989-1999*, ed. by Waldemar Kuczynski (Warszawa 2001), pp. 50-55.
- *Historia Polski 1914-2000* [History of Poland] 8th edition (Warszawa 2001).
- *Półwiecze: Historia polityczna świata po 1945* [Half a century: A political history of the world] 2nd edition (Warszawa 2001).
- "Pezetpeeru obraz własny," [The Communist party's own image] *Zycie*, 26 April 2001.

Dr. Chodakiewicz:

- "Pragmatism and Sympathy: Franco and East-Central Europe, 1939-1955," *Intermarium: The First Online Journal of East Central European Postwar History and Politics*, Columbia University, vol. 4, no. 3 (2000-2001) [Click here](#)
- "Der Warschauer Aufstand," *The Sarmatian Review* [Houston], Vol. XXII, No. 2 (April 2002): 875-880 [posted Click here](#)

- "America's Eastern Tier: Poland between NATO and United Europe," *Periphery*, vol. 6/7 (2002).
- "A Zionist Multiculturalist For Compromise," *Intermarium* Vol. 5, no. 3 (2002), posted at <http://sipa.columbia.edu/REGIONAL/ECE/vol4no3/bookreview.pdf>.
- "Toward a Special Relationship: Poland between Ireland and Israel in American Foreign Policy," *Good News: A Journal of The American Institute for Polish Culture* (2002-2003).
- *Sources of Conflict: The Polish Independentist Insurgency and the Jews in Poland, 1944-1947* (New York and Boulder, CO: East European Monographs and Columbia University Press, forthcoming Spring 2003).
- "Ordinary Terror: Communist and Nazi Occupation Politics in Jedwabne, 1939-1949," *The Polish Review* (forthcoming Spring 2003).
- *Between Nazis and Soviets: A Case Study of Occupation Policies in Poland, 1939-1947* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, forthcoming Fall 2003).
- "Agenci i bandy pozorowane: Z dziejów okupacji niemieckiej w Janowskiem," [Agents and fake bands: From the history of the German occupation in the Janow area] *Radzynski Rocznik Humanistyczny* (Fall 2002).
- "Percepcja i rzeczywistość," [A Perception and the Reality] *Gazeta Polska* 17 July 2002.
- "Amerykańscy Sowietci," [American Soviets] *Najwyższy Czas!* 29 June 2002.
- "'Gangi bandziorów' w Grodnie?" ['Gangs of bandits' in Grodno?] *Więź*, no. 1 (January 2002).