



POLISH EMBASSY NEWSLETTER 2/2011



CANBERRA, JULY 2011

JOINT MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADORS



Dear Readers,

On July 1 Poland assumed the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In taking on this role, the Polish Presidency will naturally work very closely with Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, and Jose Barroso, President of the European Commission.

The Polish Embassy will cooperate with the Delegation of the European Union which, under the new Lisbon Treaty system, exercises the Presidency responsibilities in Australia. In the area of foreign policy Poland gives its support to the process outlined in the EU-AUS Framework Agreement in order to develop further the relationship between the EU and Australia.

Very few new Presidencies implement sudden changes of direction or achieve dramatic policy shifts.

But a new Presidency can bring with it renewed energy, a change of style, and a chance to identify new themes, thus benefiting people across our continent and far beyond.

Poland's priorities are ambitious: they focus on a Growing Europe, a Secure Europe and an Open Europe.

Therefore while holding the Presidency, Poland plans to play a full part in helping European partners identify the modern regulation framework which the EU needs in order to move forcefully and to grow faster. It also supports the European Commission's proposals for reforming the Internal Market.

A Growing Europe needs a Secure Europe and also continued support for our hard-won solidarity on the free movement of people and the Common Agricultural Policy, which combines market-based reforms with continuing support (where appropriate) of those living in less developed rural areas.

In accordance with the Lisbon Treaty, the Presidency will also present a credible and united voice for the EU in international affairs, supporting the High Representative Baroness Ashton as she strengthens and develops the EU's collective external policy networks.

An Open Europe is a generous Europe, sharing its success and helping other countries. This Presidency wants to see Croatia's accession negotiations finalised, progress made with Turkey and Iceland, and continued support for all the countries of the Western Balkans in their moves towards integration with Europe.

With kind regards,

H.E. Andrzej Jaroszyński
Ambassador
Republic of Poland

H.E. David Daly
Ambassador, Head of Delegation
European Union

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LAUNCH OF THE POLISH EU PRESIDENCY, CANBERRA 12 JULY



Presidency Trio Poland-Denmark-Cyprus

Poland is the first country of the Trio, which also includes the Kingdom of Denmark and the Republic of Cyprus. Poland has been working on matters concerning cooperation in the Trio with Denmark and Cyprus since 2008. This cooperation is continued if needed at the level of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the three states, and the respective Coordinators responsible for Presidency preparations.

To celebrate the first Polish Presidency of the EU Council, the Embassy organized a recital by Oliver She, the winner of the second prize in the Australian International Chopin Piano Competition. It was attended by approximately 150 guests, including many ambassadors, representatives of DFAT and other federal departments, music lovers, journalists and Polish Australians. Before the concert a symbolic handover of the Presidency took place with the participation of the Hungarian Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Gabor Csaba, representing the outgoing Presidency, and His Excellency Ambassador Andrzej Jaroszyński. The short ceremony comprised speeches by the Ambassadors about the priorities of the respective presidencies and it concluded with a friendly handshake.

Oliver She, a young and promising artist from Brisbane, included in his recital Frederic Chopin's iconic polonaises and ballads and several masterpieces by Claude Debussy, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Alexander Scriabin and the contemporary Australian composer Carl Vine. Oliver's strong yet sensitive performance impressed the audience and proved beyond any doubt that he was a worthy laureate of the first Australian International Chopin Piano Competition in Canberra (*see our Newsletter 1/2011*).



In accordance with the Lisbon Treaty assuming the Presidency is not tantamount to being the only conductor in the Council. The President of the European Council and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy are our partners, and we will lead this orchestra together. We will hold our Presidency in line with what Prime Minister Donald Tusk said...: "We really have confidence in Europe and in its future."

Radosław Sikorski,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES

European integration as a source of growth

Internal market	EU Budget 2014-2020	Trade negotiations
E-Commerce	Commencement of negotiations on the EU budget concerning the Europe 2020 strategy	Completion of negotiations with Ukraine, India, Canada, Singapore and Malaysia
European Patent		
Reduction of roaming fees	The role of cohesion policy and the CAP	Opening of negotiations with Moldova and Georgia
SME access to funds	Investments in infrastructure and human capital	Progress in Doha Development Round negotiations
Intellectual capital		

Europe benefiting from openness

European Union expansion	Neighbourhood Policy
Signing the Accession Treaty with Croatia	Development of the Eastern Partnership (Eastern Partnership summit in Warsaw)
Continuation of accession negotiations with Turkey	Support for democracy movements in North Africa
Progress in negotiations with Iceland	New strategy for the EU's relations with the Arab world
Support for the European aspirations of the Western Balkans	

European security

Energy security	Common Foreign and Security Policy	Food security
Analysis of the EU's external energy policy	Strengthening of the EU's capabilities to plan and implement crisis management operations	Discussion on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy
Development of recommendations to strengthen common EU energy policy	Strengthening of EU operational capabilities Development of NATO-EU cooperation	Effective use of EU funds
		Maintenance of market orientation

Official website of the Polish Presidency:
<http://pl2011.eu/en>

Poland will be presiding over the opening of the 2014-2020 European multi-annual budget negotiations. As one of the biggest beneficiaries of EU spending, it will be well-placed to influence these talks. Understandably, Poland defends increasing EU budgets.

There are challenges, too.

Firstly, with the parliamentary elections planned during the EU Presidency, it may not be easy to reach consensus on any front. 26 other EU states trying to influence decisions is already a lot of pressure in itself, additional quest for electoral votes at home will not make things easier.

Secondly, the Polish Presidency will also be handling EU enlargement, helping Croatia enter the EU club in 2013. Also, despite of reservations on the part of other EU members, Warsaw intends to start membership talks with Serbia. Further opening up of the EU to the east may prove difficult without stepping on Russia's toes.

Thirdly, managing the Arab Spring and the smooth democratic transition in countries that have already made a turn will require international effort and engagement. Thus, developing deeper cooperation with countries in Europe and outside of it seems in the hands of Poland.

This task is in line with Australia's national interests as well. In his address at the National Press Club in February the Australian Foreign Minister has acknowledged the importance of international partnership with countries of the EU, US, Canada and Turkey for democracy building in Egypt. "Australia must work in close partnership with democracies and economies around the world", he said. Thus, it is up to Poland over the next six months, to bring negotiations on the international aid package to a fruitful end.

Dr Eva Polonska-Kimunguyi
Monash European and EU Centre




The logo of the Presidency

The logo of the Polish Presidency of the European Union Council was designed by Jerzy Janiszewski, an independent graphic artist. In August 1980 he took part in the strike at the Gdańsk Shipyard and created the famous Solidarity Movement logo which has become a historic symbol of the Polish path to freedom and democratic change in Central Europe. The Presidency logo alludes to the legacy of Solidarity. It symbolizes the transformation that has occurred in Poland over the past 20 years and shows the dynamism and the development of Poland. It is also a metaphor of the Polish Presidency itself which is expected to become a new benchmark of quality, both within the country and abroad.

RECENT EVENTS

The Ambassador's visit to Darwin

The Ambassador paid an official visit to the Northern Territory from 22 May to 26 May. He was received by His Honour Tom Pauling, Administrator of the Northern Territory; the Hon. Justice Trevor Riley, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory; Mr Graeme Sawyer, the Lord Mayor of Darwin, the Hon. Malarndirri McCarthy, Statehood Minister (representative of the Prime Minister of the NT); John Elferink MLA, Leader of the Opposition, and other officials. He also visited the Art Gallery at the University of Charles Darwin, the Museum of the Northern Territory, as well as the Centre of Education and Research, Crocodylus Park. He was a guest at the workshop of an Aboriginal artist, the painter Reggie Sultan. The Ambassador had a meeting with representatives of the local Polish Community and was an honorary guest at a dinner hosted by Małgorzata Bowen, President of the Polish Association NT. During the visit the Ambassador was accompanied by Mr Keith Aitken, Poland's Honorary Consul in Darwin.



A visit to the workshop of Reggie Sultan

The Ambassador's lecture in Sydney



Dr Colin Chapman, President of AIIA Sydney & the Ambassador

Before the presentation with AIIA members

On 31 May, in Sydney, at the Australian Institute of International Affairs, the Ambassador delivered a speech about the upcoming Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU. In his speech the Ambassador focused on Poland's priorities when holding the Council Presidency, Polish foreign policy, and their implementation to the economic and political situation in Poland.

EU Economic and Commercial Counsellors' visit to Western Australia

The Polish Embassy's Economic Counsellor, Witosław Antczak, participated in a joint mission of EU Economic and Commercial Counsellors to Western Australia (West Pilbara and Perth) organised by the Department of State Development (DSD) of Western Australia and the EU Delegation in Canberra.

The mission, comprising representatives of 10 EU Member States and the EU Delegation, took place on 30 May/2 June 2011 and included an intensive programme of site visits, briefings and networking events with local state government, industry, business and academia representatives in Karratha, Dampier Port, Port Hedland and Perth.

The mission was interesting and useful, allowing more to be understood about the WA economy and its leading mining and energy sectors, the resources boom there, and the opportunities arising for EU business. Being quite different from the rest of Australia – from the point of view of geology, geography, industry, economy and society – WA's reliance on mining and energy seems to be its key strength at present, but it also constitutes a weakness for the future, when the commodity boom eventually ends.

The need to diversify the WA economy was a common theme and concern in meetings and discussions. The scale of current mining and energy operations impressed the group greatly, as well as plans for further expansion associated with large mining, energy, and also port and town infrastructure projects.

Participants were keen for the mission to be the beginning of an ongoing process of greater engagement between the EU and WA. In this respect follow-up action is already being considered. For instance, Poland is planning to open an honorary consulate post in Perth with the aim of strengthening its links with this State of growing opportunities and economic and political importance.



Industrial landscape, Pilbara Region, WA

POLISH SCIENTISTS IN AUSTRALIA



Marek Paściak is one of the young Polish researchers working at Australian universities. He arrived in Canberra in September 2009 after completing his PhD at the Institute of Low Temperature and Structure Research, Polish Academy of Science in Wrocław. He works at the Research School of Chemistry at the Australian National University, and holds a post-doctoral position.

Despite the distance between both countries many Polish students are deciding to study in Australia. The number of Polish applicants for year-to-date visas has been increasing gradually each year. In 2010, 2403 Polish students received YTD visas.

-What brought you to Australia?

I came to Canberra to work with a renowned crystallographer, Professor Richard Welberry. My PhD project was devoted to disordered materials which constitute Richard's main research activity. Therefore, when the opportunity to work in Canberra arose, I applied without any hesitation.



Australian National University

-What exactly did you apply for?

My post-doctoral position is funded by the Australian Research Council. Together with my colleagues from ANU, University of Sydney and the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization, I work on a project which receives a grant from the ARC.

-What is this project about?

Its main objective is an understanding of structure-property relationships in partially disordered piezoelectric crystals. The project can result in the development of new materials with desirable electro-mechanical properties.

-It sounds quite mysterious. Could you tell us more about those crystals?

Strictly speaking piezoelectric material generates electrical charge when subjected to a mechanical stress. The inverse effect is also possible – an electric field can induce a mechanical force. Piezoelectric crystals are very widely used these days. Practically every precision device where an electric signal must be transformed into mechanical action (for example in medical equipment) contains some piezoelectric material. The most common and ordinary application, though, is seen in lighters in which by pressing a piezoelectric crystal we generate a spark.

There is no formal agreement on cooperation in higher education between Poland and Australia. However, there is collaboration between individual universities. The following universities have signed bilateral agreements with Polish universities: Australian Catholic University, Griffith University, Macquarie University, University of Melbourne, University of Newcastle, University of Western Australia, University of South Australia, University of Tasmania, Flinders University (SA), James Cook University (Queensland).

-To what extent do these practical applications have an impact on your research?

It is actually more and more important. We try to understand fundamental physics but applied to very particular materials. The goal is to be able to 'design' new compounds with similar features. These features are directly linked to potential applications and this perspective is a constant motivation.

-So I wish you constant motivation!

Thank you very much.

Another Polish scientist working at the ANU is **Przemysław Marcin Sowa**, a PhD candidate at the Australian Centre for Economic Research on Health. His doctoral dissertation concerns health system reforms in Central and Eastern Europe.

-Why did you decide to come to Australia to work on this issue?

I am interested in learning and comparing health care systems of many countries rather than focusing on one, and Australia offers an advantageous outside perspective. In one of my master's theses I discussed conditions for the development of voluntary health insurance in Poland. Eastern Europe has become a hot topic in health economics in recent years and my future supervisors here showed genuine interest in my thesis. This helped me to establish a connection with Australia. My choice of university was influenced by the ANU's prestige and its first-league rankings. I have to admit I was curious to spend a few years in fabled Australia as well. Therefore, despite the fact that I had also applied to a number of European universities, I decided to pursue my PhD at the ANU.

-Is your research limited to Central and Eastern Europe?

As far as the dissertation is concerned – yes. However, in side projects I have been gradually widening the selection of topics and the geographic scope. Recently I worked on long-term care financing and contributed to a paper on the effectiveness of health informatics. I perceive health care from the economic perspective; that is, I ensure we get the most from what we have. This point of view stems from my education – I graduated from the Faculty of Economic Sciences and the Faculty of Management at the University of Warsaw.



-So are you more an economist than a scientist?

I am an economist using the scientific method.

-Tell us something about the practical applications of your work?

Here in Australia I was asked to give lectures to health care practitioners, including doctors. I introduced them to market and non-market allocation, health technology assessment, and principles of health economics and health care financing. In the future I wish to be able to combine scientific research with applied health care system design. One way of doing that is by working for national

and international organisations.

-Have you already decided where?

There is a lot to be done and there are many potential destinations that offer the challenge of improving health care across the globe. I have a few ideas in mind. I would like to continue working in my area of expertise and to stay in touch with Central Europe, and Poland in particular, through research, academia or some other means. I feel, however, it is too early for decisions. I still have two years left to finish my PhD and I am happy with my choice of Australia.

-I wish you many good choices also in the future.

Thank you.

The interviews with Marek Paściak and Przemysław Marcin Sowa were conducted by Małgorzata Krakowiak.

Polish-Australian cooperation is also strengthened by many scientists and researchers with Polish backgrounds who work at Australian universities and institutes. There are programs open to Poles which grant fellowships in Australia. Polish scientists can apply for grants offered as a part of European-Australian collaboration:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/funding/scholarships_students_academics_en.php

Researchers from Poland who are at the beginning of their careers have an opportunity to apply for fellowships under the programs offered by the Group of 8 Universities (Go8 Universities: The University of Queensland, The University of Adelaide, The University of Melbourne, The Australian National University, The University of New South Wales, The University of Sydney, The University of Western Australia, Monash University):

http://www.go8.edu.au/documents/university-staff/programs_fellowship/go8_europeanfellowshipsbrochure.pdf

In 2009 the Australian Government established the Endeavour Awards, a scholarship program for researchers in the Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Europe and Americas to undertake study, research or professional development in Australia. Since 2007 eight Polish scientists have been awarded this fellowship:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/International/EndeavourAwards/Pages/Overview.aspx>

“ESSENTIAL KILLING”

BY JERZY SKOLIMOWSKI WINS AT GDYNIA FILM FESTIVAL



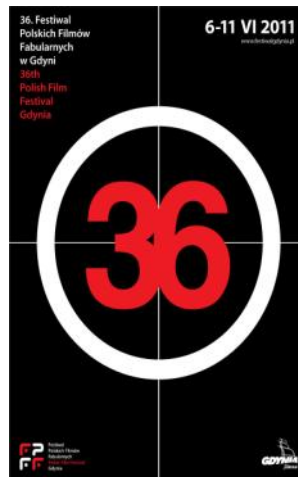
With over twenty films to his name, Polish director Jerzy Skolimowski's work includes the Berlin Golden Bear winner *The Departure*, Cannes Grand Prix winner *The Shout*, the political drama *Moonlighting*, and *The Lightship*, for which he won Best Director at the Venice Film Festival. Skolimowski also collaborated with Roman Polanski on the screenplay for *Knife in the Water*. As an actor, he has appeared in *Eastern Promises* and *Before Night Falls*. Skolimowski returned to Cannes as director in 2008 with the critically lauded thriller *Four Nights With Anna*, which opened the Director's Fortnight and also won the Grand Prix de Jury at the Tokyo International Film Festival. Skolimowski is an accomplished painter who has taken part in the Venice Biennale and exhibited across Europe and the US.

Text: <http://www.essentialkilling.com/>

The internationally acclaimed director Jerzy Skolimowski (“*The Shout*”, “*Four Nights with Anna*”) won the Golden Lion, the main prize at the 36th Polish Film Festival in Gdynia for “*Essential Killing*”.

Since 2008 there has been a connection between the Festival and Australia: the Golden Kangaroo Award sponsored by the Australian distributor PUMA FILM. This year the award was presented to Agata Kulesza for Excellence in Acting. The actress played lead roles in two films shown in Gdynia.

After receiving the Special Jury Prize at the 2010 Venice Film Festival, his film took home the greatest number of awards in Gdynia, including Best Cinematography, Best Music and Best Editing. One of the most original European directors, Lech Majewski, followed closely behind with his “*The Mill and the Cross*” winning prizes for direction,



costumes and sound. Inspired by Pieter Bruegel's masterpiece “*The Procession to Calvary*”, the film has been well regarded at various festivals across the world, premiering this year in Cannes. Platinum Lion lifetime achievement awards were presented to writer and director Tadeusz Konwicki and Roman Polański, who currently works on his latest film “*Carnage*”.

Twelve new films battled it out in the main category.

Polish Film Festival
in Gdynia
<http://www.fpff.pl/en/>

Winners were announced at the final awards ceremony on June 11, 2011 at Gdynia's Musical Theatre. According to Michał Chaciński, festival art director, Golden Lion Awards 2011 reflected a deliberate shift towards a focus on quality in Polish cinematography. He emphasized that from now on the Festival would promote pictures that “seize the attention and imagination”.

“*Essential Killing*”, synopsis:

Captured by the US military in Afghanistan, Mohammed is transported to a secret detention centre in Europe. When the vehicle is riding in crashes, he finds himself suddenly free and on the run in a snow-blanketed forest, a world away from the desert home he knew. Relentlessly pursued by an army that does not officially exist, Mohammed must confront the necessity to kill in order to survive.

Text: <http://www.essentialkilling.com/>

[Watch trailer](#)

[The film will be shown at Melbourne International Film Festival in August.](#)



Photo: Mohammed (Vincent Gallo) on the run

WROCLAW AS EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE



Wrocław, the capital of Lower Silesia and the fourth largest city in Poland, has been chosen as the European Capital of Culture 2016 (together with the Spanish city San Sebastian). Wrocław is considered one of the most rapidly developing cities in this part of Europe. It is called “a meeting place” in recognition of a genuine mixture of different cultures and religions. As European Capital of Culture Wrocław will be promoting cultural diversity and cooperation between European states. A great number of festivals, concerts, exhibitions, conferences and other events will be held throughout 2016.



In its thousand-year-long history Wrocław has always been a bone of contention, changing hands many times. It was founded in the 10th century. In the year 1000 a Polish bishopric was established there. Subsequently Wrocław fell under Silesian Piast Duchy rule and then under Czech governors. In the 16th century it was incorporated into the Habsburg Empire and in the 18th transferred to Prussian rule (when it was given the German name Breslau). After World War II Wrocław became part of Poland.

The city's long history is reflected in its excellently preserved architecture. One of the highlights, the Old Town Square, with the majestic Gothic Town Hall and the bear-shaped fountain, dates from the 13th century. Near the Square are two Gothic churches – St. Elizabeth's and St. Mary Magdalena's with impressive Romanesque portals. There is much more Gothic architecture in Wrocław, including the astonishing Cathedral of St John the Baptist, on the *Ostrów Tumski* Island which is the heart of the city and its oldest part. Within the city there are more than 120 bridges spanning the Odra River which winds through a picturesque landscape. There are many other places in Wrocław

with impressive and original architecture. Among them is the Centennial Hall built at the beginning of the 20th century as the first modernist structure made of ferro-concrete. Today it is on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Another unique building is the baroque assembly hall *Aula Leopoldinum*, part of Wrocław University. Its impressive interior decorations symbolize wisdom, knowledge and science.



Today Wrocław is the economic, cultural, and tourist centre of Lower Silesia, with 650.000 inhabitants. It is full of charming cafes, restaurants and pubs which attract both locals and visitors. Many spectacular events take place in the city, including the *Era Nowe Horyzonty Film Festival* (the biggest film event in Poland), *The Brave Festival* (an international event promoting tolerance and multiculturalism), and *Wratislavia Cantans* (a festival of oratorio and cantata music). The city is also famous for its alternative theatres. Wrocław was home to Jerzy Grotowski's experimental *Laboratorium* Theatre, which became an inspiration for artists around the world. It is also a hometown for the *Teatr Pieśni Kozła* (Song of the Goat Theatre) which is recognized worldwide. The Theatre draws inspiration from traditional performance arts. One of its founders is Anna Zubrzycka, a daughter of Polish-Australian Professor Jerzy Zubrzycki, the father of Australian multiculturalism.

Read more:

[Tourist Guide](#)

[Wrocław in UNESCO](#)

[European Capital of Culture](#)

[Grotowski Institute](#)

[Song of the Goat Theater](#)



Next to Kraków (European Capital of Culture 2000), Wrocław is the second Polish city to be awarded the prestigious title. Don't miss visiting the city when you are in Poland!

UPCOMING EVENTS

“Czesław Miłosz centenary: A celebration in words and music”



The Embassy of the Republic of Poland and the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs will have the pleasure to present “Czesław Miłosz centenary: A celebration in words and music”. The event will be held at the Embassy on Friday, 29th July.

Czesław Miłosz (1911-2004) is one of the most famous and widely recognized Polish writers. Active in many genres (poetry, prose, essays and translation), Miłosz received the Nobel Prize in 1980 and many other prestigious literary awards during his life. His works have been translated into forty two languages. As a

novelist he became renowned for “The Seizure of Power” (1953), a work about the establishment of communism in Poland. His “Native Realm” (1959) remains one of the best studies of the evolution of the Central European mentality.

This year Poland pays tribute to the poet, celebrating the 100th anniversary of Miłosz’s birthday. The year-long programme includes musical and literary events, publications, conferences, discussions and exhibitions which take place in Poland and abroad.

Date: Friday, 29th July, 6.30 pm

**Venue: Embassy of the Republic of Poland,
7 Turrana St, Yarralumla**

Read more:

www.milosz365.eu

http://magazyn.culture.pl/en/culture/artykuly/wy_in_rok_milosza_2011

Information: Małgorzata Krakowiak

e-mail: Malgorzata.Krakowiak@msz.gov.pl

Recital by Edward Neeman



Edward Neeman performs Chopin’s Etudes, op. 10 & 25 at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Canberra – a fundraising recital for the Friends of the International Chopin Competition of Australia – 13th September 2011. Chopin elevated the Etude from a study to an artistic form where the musical ideas and technical difficulties intimately

coincide. They become studies in the counterpoint of colour & nuance. Op. 10 (1833) and Op.25 (1837) are each a set of twelve etudes. The earliest etudes were written before he was twenty, the last when he was twenty-seven. To hear all twenty-four is a unique opportunity. The sets are rarely performed because of the huge challenges they impose on the pianist.

“Neeman is a true artist who isn't afraid to put a distinctive stamp on whatever he touches, without resorting to mannerism.” - Don Rosenberg, Plain Dealer

The Australian-American Edward Neeman moved to Canberra in 1999 to continue his studies under Larry Sitsky. He returned to America in 2006 to study with Solomon Mikowsky at the Manhattan School of Music. He has received numerous accolades for his piano performances across five continents. He has won first prizes in the Rodrigo, Carlet and Kawai international piano competitions. Edward has performed at major venues across New York City, including Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Le Poisson

Rouge, and the Morgan Library. Edward teaches secondary piano at Juilliard. He gives yearly master classes in Australia for the Canberra Music Teachers' Association and in Indonesia at E. L. M. S. Conservatory. He also composes. He is currently a C.V. Doctoral Fellow at The Juilliard School where he studies with Jerome Lowenthal.



Friends of the International Chopin Competition of Australia

The Friends of the International Chopin Competition of Australia with the ANU School of Music successfully ran the 1st Australian International Chopin Piano Competition, May, 2011, ANU School of Music. This fundraising concert will help them with the 2nd Competition in 2013 to be held in Canberra.

Date: Tuesday, 13th September, 7.00 pm

**Venue: Embassy of the Republic of Poland,
7 Turrana St, Yarralumla**

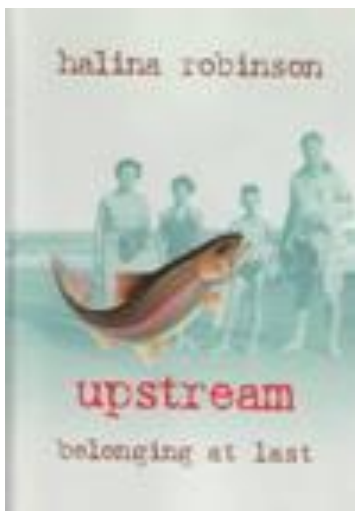
Information: Wanda Horky, President, 026259 5099

e-mail: wwhorky@gmail.com

[website: http://www.australianchopincompetition.org/friends/friends.html](http://www.australianchopincompetition.org/friends/friends.html)

[website: http://edwardneeman.com/home.html](http://edwardneeman.com/home.html)

BOOKS OF INTEREST



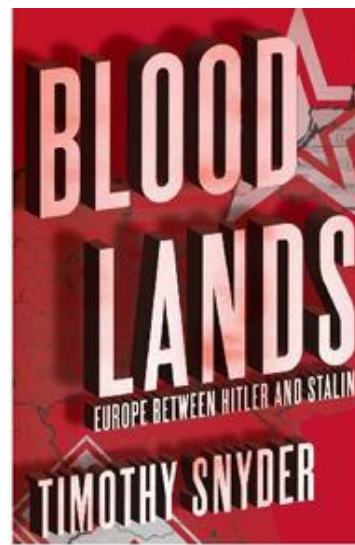
Halina Robison,
“Upstream, belonging at last”
 Sydney Jewish Museum,
 2011, p. 516.

„In ‘Upstream’, the third volume of her autobiography, Polish-born Halina Robison continues the story of her remarkable life which began with her acclaimed memoir ‘A Cork on the Waves’ and continued with

‘Treading Water in the Promised Land’.

‘Upstream’ begins with her arrival in Australia in 1961 ... and describes ... her transformation from a migrant to a committed Australian citizen”.

(From Diane Armstrong’s review)

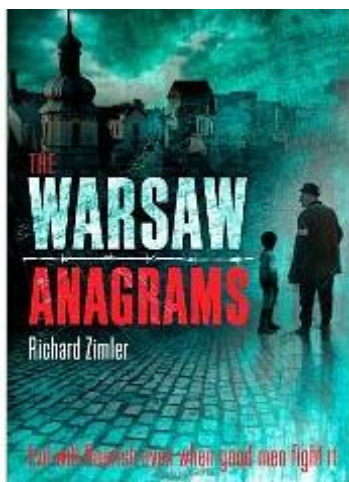


Timothy Snyder,
“Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin”
 New York: Basic Books, 2010, p. 524.

“In the middle of the 20th century Europa’s two totalitarian empires, Nazi Germany and Stalin’s Soviet Union, killed 14 m non-combatants, in peacetime and war. The who, why, when, where and how of

these mass murders is the subject of a gripping and comprehensive new book by Timothy Snyder of Yale University”.

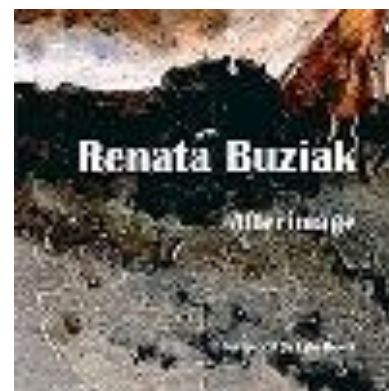
(The Economist, October 16th 2010)



Richard Zimler,
“The Warsaw Anagrams”
 Corsair
 (a fiction imprint of Constable & Robinson),
 London, 2011, p. 336.

Zimler’s latest work is a detective novel set in the Jewish ghetto of Warsaw. In this profoundly moving and dark historical thriller, adored by Portugal’s

star writer Lidia Jorge, Erik and Izzy take the readers into Warsaw’s most forbidden territories and into the most heroic chambers of the human heart.



Renata Buziak,
“Afterimage”
 Queensland Centre for Photographer,
 2010 (published in Polish and English),
 p. 48.

“Afterimage” documents the recent work of experimental photographer, Renata

Buziak, a Polish Australian whose work combines analogue and digital methods, subverts and reaffirms canonical techniques. She employs “chance, microbes, time and specific plants... [to] evoke and find form for emotional landscape of her childhood in Poland”.

[More information](#)

For more Embassy news + information:

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 Jan Minkiewicz
 Marek Paściak
www.essentialkilling.com
www.Poland.gov.pl



60 Years of the Polish Community Council of Australia

The Polish Community Council of Australia celebrated its 60th anniversary during the annual convention which took place in Canberra in June. The welcome function was attended by a number of important guests, including Senator Kate Lundy – Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs representing Prime Minister Julia Gillard, and Senator Gar Humphries representing Leader of the Opposition Tony Abbott. A message from Prime Minister Gillard was conveyed by Senator Lundy (see the next page). Polish Ambassador to Australia, Andrzej Jaroszyński, read out a letter of congratulations from Bogdan Borusewicz –



Ambassador Andrzej Jaroszyński (left) presenting Andrzej Alwast with a certificate of appreciation.



Senator Kate Lundy and Andrzej Alwast

President of the Polish Senate and presented Mr Andrzej Alwast, the outgoing President of the Polish Community Council, with a certificate of appreciation from the Polish Embassy.

60 Years of the Council

In the aftermath of World War II, between 1945 and 1954 around sixty thousand Polish refugees arrived in Australia. They began setting up community and veteran organisations in states and territories and soon a need for a coordinating body arose. Thus the Council of Polish Organisations was established during a congress convened in January 1950.

Throughout the sixty years of its existence, the Council has played an active role in voicing opinions of the Polish community in Australia, lobbying and providing assistance to Poles in need. It also supported Polish aspirations to independence and democracy. In early 1980s the Council set up the Australian National Committee for Relief to Poland, whose patron was Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser. In 1981 the Help Poland Live Appeal collected \$2.3 million, including \$1 million donated by the Australian government.

In the following years the Council played a vital role in organising political and economic support to back the Polish people in their struggle for democracy. It also organised support for refugees who encountered difficulties settling in Australia.



Janusz Rygielski

The Council Today

The Council actively supports Polish cultural presence in Australia. It assists in the organisation of the Pol-Art festivals, which take place every three years, in turn in various state capitals. The Council was a major sponsor of the 1st Australian International Chopin Competition, which took place in May of this year in Canberra.

At this year's annual convention Mr. Janusz Rygielski was elected the new President of the Polish Community Council. He had already served as President from 1999 till 2007. He declared that the main objective of his current tenure would be to prepare a new generation of leaders of the Polish-Australian community.

Since the new members of the Executive Committee of the Council live in various cities, such as Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Hobart, an extensive use will be made of new communication technologies to facilitate a fluent collaboration among them. Videoconferences are expected to be the most common form of the Committee's contacts – a technological change preceding a generational change in the Polish community in Australia.



The delegates in session

Message from The Honourable Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia

It is with great pleasure that I send my best wishes to everyone attending the annual convention of the Polish Community Council of Australia and extend my warmest congratulations to the Council as it celebrates its 60th anniversary.

The efforts of the Council and the broader Polish Australian community contribute richly to the success of our diverse, multi-cultural society and help reinforce the bond of friendship between Poland and Australia.

We remember the fact that the first contact between Polish people and Australia occurred in 1696, when several Poles joined Willem de Vlamingh's Dutch expedition to explore the Western Australian coast, while the great Polish-Australian explorer Paul Edmund Strzelecki memorably named Australia's highest mountain after the Polish-American hero

Tadeusz Kościuszko. In the postwar period, Polish immigration made a decisive contribution to Australia's fortunes. Between 1947 and 1954 alone, the Polish Australian population increased an incredible nine-fold.

Today we honour the contribution of the Polish community, not only sharing pride in the success of the high achievers like Karl Kruszelnicki, Alicia Molik, Michael Klim and Magda Szubanski – but also the efforts of those countless Polish Australians whose hard work and sacrifices helped build the prosperous, confident nation we now enjoy.

It took remarkable courage to travel from a different culture and build a new future in a strange land. Despite these challenges, our Polish community has found a place to belong where they are welcomed and valued – a place to always call home. You have my admiration and my thanks.

Concerts of the 1st Prize Winner of the Australian International Chopin Piano Competition

Peter de Jager, 1st prize winner of the inaugural edition of the Australian International Chopin Piano Competition which took place in Canberra between 1st and 8th May 2011, gave concerts in the Verbruggen Hall of Sydney Conservatorium of Music on 11th May and in the Melba Hall of Melbourne Conservatorium of Music on the following day. Both performances by this 21-year-old Melbourne-based pianist were received enthusiastically by the numerous audiences. The program of the recital comprised a wide selection of F. Chopin's works, including Barcarole in F sharp major Op. 60, four Mazurkas, Nocturne in C minor Op. 40 No. 1, Ballade in G minor Op. 23 No. 1, Prelude in B minor Op. 28 No. 6, Sonata in B minor Op. 58 No. 3 and Berceuse in D flat major.

Peter de Jager is a highly sought-after soloist and chamber musician in Melbourne. He was a student of Nehama Patkin and Stephen McIntyre before studying at the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM)



Peter de Jager



from 2005 to 2008 with Rita Reichman. He was a prize-winner in the 2007 Lev Vlassenko competition, and was twice finalist in ANAM's internal concerto competition. Peter participated in the 2009 and 2010 Lucerne Festival Academy, playing under the baton and artistic direction of Pierre Boulez. He is currently studying towards a bachelor of Music degree in composition at the University of Melbourne.

(Both photos: Tom Koprowski)

Prizes for students excelling in Polish Studies at Macquarie University

In May the Department of International Studies of Macquarie University held its annual Prize Giving Ceremony, recognising the most gifted language students. Two community-funded prizes were given to students excelling in Polish language: The Krystyna Singler Memorial Prize for Most Outstanding Student and The Zygmunt Wszelaki Memorial Prize for most Outstanding Student. Mr Jarryd Foote was awarded the former prize, while Miss Ewa Kubik received the latter.



From left to right: Andrzej Siedlecki - Head of Polish Studies for the last 10 years; Daniel Gromann - Polish Consul General in Sydney and Jarryd Foote - winner of the Krystyna Singler Prize for Polish Studies.

Polish Studies at Macquarie University were founded in 1983. They currently offer online units in introductory, intermediate and advanced Polish as well as Modern Polish Theatre and Modern Polish Prose and Poetry. Travel grants are available for residential short units at Polish universities.