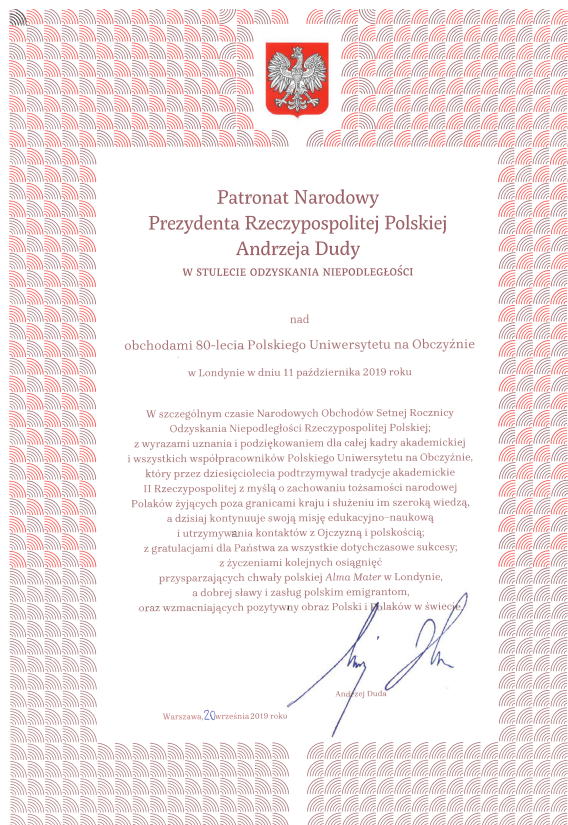




80 years of the Polish University Abroad
1939 - 2019



**National Patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland
Andrzej Duda**

**On the Centenary of Poland's Independence
of the 80th Anniversary of the Polish University Abroad
in London on 11 October 2019**

In the special time of the National Celebrations
of the Centenary of Independence of the Republic of Poland;
with words of recognition and gratitude for the academic staff
and all associates of the Polish University Abroad,
which for many decades upheld the academic traditions
of the 2nd Polish Republic in order to preserve the national identity
of the Poles living abroad and to provide them with broad knowledge,
and which today continues its educational and academic mission
as well as a mission of maintaining contacts with the Homeland and the Polish identity;
with congratulations for all previous successes;
with wishes of many future accomplishments
bringing glory to the Polish Alma Mater in London,
a good name and merit to the Polish emigrants
and emphasising a positive image of Poland and the Poles in the world.

Andrzej Duda
Warsaw, 20 September 2019

80 Years of the Polish University Abroad

London 11-12 October 2019

HONORARY PATRONAGE OF THE CEREMONY

National Patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland
Andrzej Duda
in the Centenary of Regaining Independence

Patronage of the Senate of the Republic of Poland Marshal
Stanisław Karczewski

Patronage of the Minister of Science and Higher Education
Jarosław Gowin

Patronage of the Chairmain of the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools
in Poland (CRASP)
Professor Jan Szmidt

Patronage of the Chairman of Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences
Professor Jan Ostrowski

Patronage of the Chairman of Polish Society of Arts & Sciences Abroad
Dr Andrzej Fórmaniak

Patronage of the Chairman
of the Federation of Poles in Great Britain
Tadeusz K. Stenzel

Patronage of the Chairman of the Association
of Polish Engineers in Great Britain
Piotr Świeboda

PROGRAMME OF THE CEREMONY

RECTOR AND THE SENATE OF THE POLISH UNIVERSITY ABROAD

Cordially invite you to attend
the Ceremony Commemorating The 80th Anniversary
of the Foundation of the First Polish University Abroad

PROGRAMME OF THE CEREMONY OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2019 / 2020

Friday, 11 October 2019 at 17:30, Malinowa Hall, POSK [2nd floor]

Gaudeamus Igitur, National Anthem

80 Years of PUNO – Traditions and New Challenges – opening speech
by HM Rector of PUNO Professor Dr Tomasz J. Kaźmierski
Honorary Patrons' representatives' speeches and congratulation letters

This Is Where It Begins... – Paris 1939, Vice-Rector of PUNO
– Professor Dr Grażyna Czubińska

Inaugural lecture:
The Polish University Abroad – In the Service of the Polish Culture.
Reflection on John Paul II Thoughts – Prelate Stefan Wyleżek
Rector of the Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales

Conferment of the title of Doctor Honoris Causa
on Prof. Dr hab. Halina Taborska
Laudator: Prof. Dr hab. Ewa Lewandowska-Tarasiuk
Presentation of medals, honours and awards

Ceremony closure

Gaude Mater Polonia

Opening and closing of the Jubilee Ceremony by
the University choir MUSICA formed by:
Agnieszka Szajner, Ilona Mościcka, Leszek Kulaszewicz,
Paulina Ostrowska, Ange Happie

*

11 October 2019 (Friday) at 20.00 – Graduates Bal
Łowiczanka Restaurant, POSK [1st floor]
DRESS CODE: Black tie

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

PUNO – 80 YEARS OF CONTINUITY POLISH HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE WORLD

Saturday, 12 October 2019 at 11:30 Malinowa Hall (POSK [2nd floor])

The aim of the conference is to present the continuity of the Polish learning in the world by the example of the activities and history of the first Polish higher education establishment outside the country's borders, of which The Polish University Abroad (PUNO) is the heir. The history of the University will be presented in three sessions: 'History 1939-2018', 'PUNO in the World' and 'PUNO in the Present Times' with presentations given by historians, witnesses of history, teachers and students (former and present), from all over the world.

Saturday, 12 October 2019 at 18:00
Formal opening of the exhibition:
'PUNO – 80 Years of Continuity
of the Polish Science in the World'
POSK Gallery [ground floor]

The Polish University Abroad,
Polish Social and Cultural Association (POSK)
238-246 King Street, London W6 0RF
e-mail: jubileusz@puno.edu.pl

NOTE: On Sunday, 6 October 2019 at 12:00
a Holy Mass will be celebrated at the Christ the King Church,
during which an 80th Anniversary of PUNO commemorative
plaque will be unveiled
ADDRESS: 232/234 Balham High Road London SW17 7AW



THE POLISH UNIVERSITY ABROAD

STRUCTURE

Rector

Prof. Dr inż. Tomasz J. Kaźmierski

Vice-Rector

Prof. Dr Grażyna Czubińska

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

Deputy Dr Dean Agnieszka Szajner

POLISH BIOGRAPHY UNIT

TEACHING IN THE POLISH DIASPORA UNIT

HISTORY OF POLISH EMIGRATION UNIT

INSTITUTE OF EUROPEAN CULTURE

Director: Prof. Dr Michael Fleming

Vice-director: Dr Justyna Gorzkowicz

MEDIA STUDIES UNIT

CONTEMPORARY BRITISH CULTURE UNIT

CONTEMPORARY LITERARY AND ARTISTIC CULTURE UNIT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Dean: Prof. Dr Grażyna Czubińska

HEALTH SCIENCES UNIT

APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY UNIT

POLITICAL CULTURE AND DEMOCRACY UNIT

INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL SCIENCES

Director: Prof. Dr inż. Tomasz J. Kaźmierski

Vice-Director: Dr Marian Zastawny

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UNIT

TECHNOLOGY IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND BUSINESS UNIT

ADMINISTRATION

Halina Stochniol MA, Secretary of PUNO

Danuta Nadaj MA, Course Administrator

Urszula Lenik MA, Bursar

IT Specialist, Rafał Drąg MSc

Roman Mazur MBA, Director of Public Relation and Development, PUNO

**SPEECH BY HIS MAGNIFICENCE RECTOR
OF THE POLISH UNIVERSITY ABROAD IN LONDON
PROFESSOR TOMASZ KAŻMIERSKI
AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY
OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/2020**



**80 YEARS OF PUNO
TRADITION AND NEW CHALLENGES**

Our university is 80 years old. After the defeat of Poland in the September Campaign in 1939, thanks to the joint effort of the governments of the Republic of Poland and the French Republic, the Polish University Abroad was established in Paris. The first seat of the university was the building of the Polish Library in Paris, the renowned historian Professor Oskar Halecki became its first Rector. The inauguration ceremony, which took place on 1st of December 1939, was chaired by the Rector of the University of Paris, the world-famous neurologist Professor Gustave Roussy, in the presence of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland and the Commander-In-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces, General Władysław Sikorski. The university was financially supported by the Polish National Culture Fund, which was established by the Polish government in October 1939.

Thanks to that support, study at the University was free of charge to all students. About 80 professors and associate professors as well as 60 assistant professors from universities in Poland who were residing in France after the defeat of Poland declared their participation in the work of the university. Two faculties were created, the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Law and Economics, in which about one hundred students studied.

The Polish Library in Paris to this day holds huge archives documenting the circumstances of the establishment of the University. The documents contain reactions to the horrifying news reaching the West from Poland about the brutal crackdown of the Polish elites by both invaders, Germany and the Soviet Union, about the mass arrests and summary executions. In particular the news about the arrest of 183

professors from the Jagiellonian University and the University of Science and Technology in Cracow and their detention in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp were received with very strong reactions throughout Europe. Those were shocking news not only to the Poles. However, nobody at the time knew that the 1939 events were merely just a beginning of the systematic actions by both invaders, particularly Germany, to realise the plan of a physical and total annihilation of the Polish intellectual elite. Professor Andrzej Pelczar, an eminent mathematician and Rector of the Jagiellonian University in 1990-1993, paid tribute to the history of the Polish University Abroad in these words: 'it is difficult to underestimate its role in the preservation of the Polish intellectual substance and Polish science and research capacities in that tragic period'. Indeed, the establishment of a Polish university in France maintained the continuity of free and independent Polish higher education, which was of fundamental importance to the survival of the Polish culture.

The fall of France in June 1940 interrupted the University activities after just two semesters, and the academic staff relocated to London. The British government, in cooperation with the Polish Government in London, created temporary Polish departments and academic schools at some British universities. The Polish Department of Medical Sciences was formed at the University of Edinburgh, the Polish Department of Law - in Oxford, the Polish School of Architecture - in Liverpool and the Polish University College - in London. These departments were governed by the decrees of the President of Poland issued in 1941 and 1944. The decrees laid legal foundations for the continuity of the University created in Paris.

In 1949, in the light of the post-war political situation and massive settlement of Polish immigrants in Great Britain, these departments formed a re-activated Polish university under a slightly different name of PUNO (Polski Uniwersytet na Obczyźnie – Polish University in Exile). PUNO took over and further developed its Parisian predecessor's educational and academic mission. Professor Mieczysław Sas-Skowroński, Rector of PUNO

in 1987-1993, wrote that the Polish departments operating at British Universities during the war ensured the continuity of the Parisian university and that 'it was possible to maintain the continuity of the Polish higher education in Great Britain'. On 9 December 1948 the Temporary University Council adopted a 'PUNO Constitution', stating that the University is, 'not only an academic, but also a political' element of the Polish state in exile. The ethnographer Professor Cezaria Baudouin de Courtenay-Ehrenkreuz-Jędrzejewiczowa, who arrived in England from Palestine in 1947, actively participated in the restoration of the Polish University Abroad. Professor Jędrzejewiczowa defined the two most important goals of the university in these words: "First of all, it is important that the university activities are inspired by the spirit of freedom, of which the education in Poland has been deprived, and that all the falsehoods about Poland spread worldwide are straightened. Secondly, all effort should be made to ensure that the younger generation of the Polish scholars, educated at universities abroad, preserved the Polish identity, so that they remain Polish scientists".

It is worth mentioning that Professor Cezaria Jędrzejewiczowa was the first female Rector in the history of Polish universities, and held that role at PUNO from 1958 to 1967.

The historical continuity of the Polish University Abroad and PUNO was evident in three areas: personnel, ideological and structural.

The personnel continuity was manifested by the fact that the founders of the Parisian university, who participated in the formation of PUNO in 1947, led their research and teaching activities both in Paris and then in London. Amongst them there were: Professor Oskar Halecki, distinguished academic teacher, chairman of the Organisational Committee of the Polish University Abroad in Paris, rector of this University and vice-rector of PUNO; Professor Stanisław Stroński, philologist, politician, academic as well as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information and Documentation in the Cabinet of General Władysław Sikorski, lecturer at PUNO from 1951 to 1955; Professor Marian Kukiel, Major General, historian, academic, the Deputy

Minister of Military Affairs in Paris and London in 1940, National Defence Minister in 1942-1949.

The first generation of academic staff at PUNO consisted of people born during the Partitions of Poland and educated in the free interwar Poland. That generation created an ethos of Independence and ethos of resurrection of the Polish culture destroyed by the aggressors during the Partitions. Their lives were deeply affected by the WWII. Not only were they academics, but also high-ranked army officers, politicians, activists, and people who for decades had been removed from the national memory by the Polish communist regime. To them PUNO owes its existence and is the guardian of their memory and an heir of their ethos.

The ideological continuity was formed by the objectives and ethos of the Polish University Abroad in Paris and their strict connection with the educational mission of PUNO after the war. PUNO represented all the Polish universities and preserved the continuity of the Polish higher education. Polish soldiers and their families, refugees and emigrants could continue or begin to study in Polish outside their country, develop scientific research and publish its results worldwide. The mission of PUNO is to maintain the continuity of the Polish science and higher education outside Poland and to serve all generations of Poles who live outside their home country.

The structural continuity existed due to the restoration in London of the academic structure of the Parisian Polish University Abroad. Two of the Parisian Polish University Abroad departments were Humanities and the Department of Law and Economics. The first department created at PUNO in London was Humanities, followed by the formation of the Law Department Committee and the Economics Department Committee. The Department of Humanities was a leading department in Paris and remains so until today after PUNO started operating in London.

Many Poles who found themselves in Western Europe after WWII, having not had a chance to complete their university courses before the war, could obtain a degree at PUNO, start or continue their doctoral and post-doctoral studies in the

field of Polish philology, history, law, economics, sociology, natural sciences and technology. The younger generation benefited from the possibility of full and regular education at university level, based on pre-WWII education programmes and pre-WWII Polish university regulations and rules, adjusted to the needs of the Polish emigration community.

Over several decades after the war PUNO was also the intellectual and academic centre of the Polish Diaspora worldwide. PUNO was a guardian of truth and academic freedom and openly opposed the ideological indoctrination that all the universities in Poland were subjected to. Degrees awarded at PUNO are recognised by universities in many countries, e.g. USA, Canada, Australia, Germany and France. Several doctoral graduates of PUNO were invited to work at universities in various countries. Amongst PUNO professors were the most distinguished Polish academic in exile, most of whom found employment at foreign universities.

PUNO operated not only in England. Three overseas branches are particularly worth mentioning: the Department of Polish Emigration Biographies in France, now operating in London and Warsaw, the Fine Arts Department, known as Academia Polona Artium in Munich between 1982 and 2013; and the Chicago branch of PUNO operating from late 1970s to early 1990s.

The 80th anniversary of PUNO is a celebration of the great idea, which was the formation of an independent Polish university abroad, operating in the best interest of Poles scattered throughout the world as well as the best interest of the home country – the idea, adopted by the Polish university established in Paris, now continued and developed by the Polish University Abroad in London.

On September 18, 2019, the Senate of PUNO adopted a resolution to give our university the name of Ignacy Jan Paderewski. From then on, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, an eminent Polish emigrant, not only an extremely talented world-famous artist, but above all a great patriot and statesman, one of the fathers of the Polish Independence is officially the patron of the Polish

University Abroad. It is hard to find a better patron of this university, which was established by the will of the Polish community abroad and has existed for 80 years by the force of that will. Thanks to this University the continuity of independent and free Polish learning has been preserved for over 40 years which were very difficult for our homeland.

Today PUNO has new aims and new strategic goals. According to the Office for National Statistics, officially there are over a million of Poles in the UK, including about 900,000 who arrived from Poland since 2004. A research conducted at PUNO revealed that the average age of an adult Pole in the UK is 32; 31% of them have been educated up to the secondary level, 32% have higher education. About 200,000-300,000 Poles residing in the UK have settled here and their financial situation is stable. Between 2004 and 2016 the amount of money sent to Poland by this group to improve the standard of living in the home country exceeded the amount of the EU subsidies. They send about 3 billion

pounds per year to Poland. Most of them are young people, for whom PUNO would like to provide an opportunity to gain or complete their degree. An effective cooperation with the Polish government is necessary to realise these aims successfully, in particular the aim to provide higher education in Polish for the Poles living in the UK and other countries.

We hope to find a way, which despite the legal differences between Poland and the UK, will allow the Polish government to support the university systematically and permanently, at the same time taking advantage of the years of scientific and academic achievements of the Polish diaspora, who over the decades accomplished so much through their hard work in the interest of the Poles scattered across the world as well as in the interest of Poland. This is absolutely necessary if we want to keep the hundreds of thousands of young Poles settled in the UK and their children born in the UK in the circle of the Polish culture.

Prof. dr inż. Tomasz J. Kaźmierski
Rektor PUNO



Photo 1. Professor Tomasz Kaźmierski and Anna Maria Anders, PUNO, 2018, from the University's archives



THIS IS WHERE IT BEGINS – PARIS 1939

From the speech by Professor Tomasz J Kaźmierski – PUNO Rector we could briefly learn about the traditions and challenges that our university has set for itself. I would like to tell you a bit more about what we found in Paris. Yes, that's where it all began... at the Polish Library in Paris, in 1939, on the left bank of the river Seine - 6 Quai d'Orléans, 75004 Paris, France. After the September 1939 Campaign, Poland was occupied by its enemies. The invaders aimed to destroy the Polish culture and higher education, and the war reality exceeded the worst expectations: all universities that were under the German occupation were closed and the aim was their total eradication, which meant a threat of annihilation to the Polish academic life and Polish science.

As Professor Oskar Halecki noted in his report on the university performance in June 1940:

'By no means could we accept this long break in the creative efforts of the nation in the area of higher education and science. An urgent necessity, state and national, was to

ensure the continuity for this creativity and its representatives against the enemy efforts; and to save and gather – against the extermination politics – all of the Polish academic teachers and students, who gradually managed to escape abroad. This can only be achieved by establishing a Polish university in the free, foreign land...'

The first discussions on the project of creating the Polish University Abroad were held as early as September 1939 in Switzerland, and a decision was made to establish such an entity in Paris, with its headquarters at the Polish Library. In the free French capital, beside the Polish President, Government and Army – another Polish independence emigration started to form. The project started in October 1939, at the 'Voix de Varsovie' newspaper office, established through the efforts of the Polish Library – and was well received by the French community and both Polish and French governments. By the end of November, dates were agreed for two meetings to form the University: a closed meeting of Polish universities Professors and Associate Professors



and the Polish University Abroad opening ceremony. The former, led by Professor Stanisław Stroński, took place at the end of November in the Polish Library Boardroom.

After a speech given by Professor Oskar Halecki and a discussion, the project of establishing a Polish University Abroad was endorsed unanimously. The Organisational Committee was selected, at the same time acting as the University Senate. It comprised representatives of six Polish universities and two technology universities: the Jagiellonian University in Cracow was represented by Professor Stanisław Kot, the Stefan Batory University in Vilnius – by Professor Stefan Glaser; the Jan Kazimierz University in Lvov – by Professor Olgierd Górka; the Józef Piłsudski University in Warsaw – by Professor Oskar Halecki; the University of Poznań – by Professor Stanisław Runge; the Catholic University of Lublin – by Professor Stanisław Stroński (who in the Committee works was replaced by Professor Paweł Skwarczyński, as he was nominated as the Polish Vice-President and the Minister of State); the Warsaw University of Technology – by Professor Gustaw Mokrzycki and the Lvov University of Technology – by Associate Professor Adam Rose.

The Committee was led by Professor Oskar Halecki and role of the secretary was entrusted to Professor Paweł Skwarczyński. A decision was made to open two departments as soon as possible: legal and economic under the direction of Professor Glaser and humanities under the leadership of Professor Kot. The inauguration of the Polish University Abroad took place on 1 December 1939 in the Great Hall of the Polish Library in Paris. The Polish Republic President Władysław Raczkiewicz bestowed his Honorary Patronage of the ceremony, and having not been able to attend it in person due to ill health, he nominated the then Foreign Affairs Minister August Zaleski as his delegate. The ceremony was led by the University of Paris Rector, Professor Gustav Roussy. The guests were welcomed by the host, the Polish Library Director – Minister Franciszek Pułaski, and on behalf of the Polish government – by the Deputy Minister General Marian Kukiel. Professor

Oskar Halecki presented the programme of the Polish University Abroad Committee. In his opening speech Minister Franciszek Pułaski said:

‘(...) It is happening not so much by a strange, but more perhaps a significant divine providence, that we welcome our distinguished guests and representatives of the Polish government – in this very place, where from patriotic sacrifices of our greatest heroes and national poets the creative elements of our homeland’s spiritual resurrection were born, and that we welcome you here today on almost exactly 100th anniversary of our Institution, which they brought to life, so that, even in the worst times of our captivity, it could represent with dignity to the western world our moral and spiritual values, and proclaim our right to an independent country... ‘

Before the inauguration, in the last few days of November 1939, a message was received that almost all Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow were arrested by the Germans and imprisoned in a concentration camp. This tragedy – as indicated by Oskar Halecki – had particularly highlighted the necessity of establishing a Polish education facility in a foreign land. Only such a facility could freely defend oppressed academic teachers. The work of the Polish University Abroad Committee was initially dominated by these actions. The Polish Government prepared a letter of protest, adopted also by the University of Paris, which was sent, amongst others, to universities in England, USA, Italy, Greece and Argentina. On 24 January 1940, initiated by the Polish University Abroad, a special memorial service was ordered for the eight Cracow professors killed in the concentration camps between 28 December 1939 and 23 January 1940. Memory of these victims, followed soon by many other Polish academic teachers – the news of whose fates arrived later – manifested itself in many later actions, including those in aid of the professors remaining still in the concentration camps.

On 5 November 1939 a Memorandum on the release of the Professors arrested by the Gestapo was published. It contained a list of 170 names of representatives of the Polish academic world held by the Germans. The Polish University Abroad

from the beginning made every effort to work closely and agree their activities with the Polish Government. Particular attention and care was offered to the university by President Władysław Raczkiewicz and Prime Minister General Władysław Sikorski, who on 22 January 1940, the day when the lectures commenced, sent the following telegram:

‘On the day of the opening of the Polish University Abroad, a centre for culture and creative ideas, proving the viability and steadfastness of the Polish national spirit, I am sending His Magnificence my warmest wishes of fruitful work. General Sikorski, Prime Minister’.

The Legal and Economic Department and the Humanities Department began regular lectures the following day, Tuesday 23 January 1940. It was also planned to form a Military Department for the soldiers and officers. In December 1939 negotiations with the Government commenced to agree a budget for funding the Parisian branch of the Fine Art Academy in Cracow, maintaining the Polish Studies Department and establishing the Ignacy Paderewski Art and Culture Institute. Funds were also sought for allowances for Professors scattered abroad.

All these initiatives led to preservation of the Polish scientific and cultural life. Help came – beside the Polish Library – from the Scientific Centre in Paris of the Polish Academy of Sciences. In the difficult preparatory period the latter opened its doors for the university thus providing rooms, media and access to its own library for students and teachers. Above all however, it created ‘an atmosphere permeated with the most noble cultural traditions of the Great Emigration’, as Rector Professor Halecki mentioned in his speech. Despite the exceptional circumstances of the war, the daily university work was heading towards upholding and strengthening the position, which the Polish academic community gained on the international stage in the pre-war times.

The overriding priority was an expansion of the influence of the Polish culture and education, even without the natural homeland sources. It was also the time of an intensive cooperation with the academics from the three Polish allies – France, Great Britain and USA, above all those

from the university’s host country which ‘showed the greatest affinity’. The University of Paris, which usually did not employ foreign Professors, accepted the Polish scientists as its own members. From February to May 1940 Professor Halecki gave in its walls a cycle of ten lectures on „L’Eglise au temps des grands conciles du XV siècle”, with very high attendance.

On 4th May 1940 a concert was held at the Sorbonne as a tribute to Poland. The university was also in a close relationship with the Parisian Catholic Institute and its rector, Cardinal Alfred Baudrillart. The Institute’s bulletin several times mentioned the Polish University Abroad in a favourable manner. At the annual meeting on 30 April Professor Oskar Halecki gave a lecture on ‘Le sort des elites polonaises pendant la guerre’ and on that occasion the Institute donated 5,000 francs for the university students. Likewise, another French catholic university in Angers, where the Polish government was based, on 17 April commenced a series of lectures by the Polish professors. The first lecture - Hedvige d’Anjou et les orgines de la collaboration franco-polonaise - was given by Oskar Halecki. Public presentations on the dramatic situation of the Polish upper class took place from December 1939 until May 1940 in Lille, Bourges, and were also broadcast on the French radio, where Professors Halecki and Winiarski described repressions of the Polish culture by the invaders, based on their own experiences.

From the beginning the founders of the Polish University Abroad believed that a university branch should be established in London, even though fewer Polish scientists were settled there then. It was important to strengthen and enhance the relations due to the political alliance. In October 1939 Professor Halecki, in consultation with the Ambassador Raczyński, started consultations on the matter in London, Oxford and Cambridge. The university also set itself a mission of maintaining the cooperation and representation of the Polish science at the international institutions. Amongst others, it established contacts with the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation (Paris), which was an implementing body of the League of Nations in this area – the university committed

UNIWERSYTET POLSKI ZA GRANICĄ
UNIVERSITÉ DE POLOGNE
A L'ÉTRANGER

6, Quai d'Orléans, Paris VI.
tel.: Odéon 35-61
N^o. 344/40...

Paris, February 8-th, 1940.

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The undersigned Polish professors grouped by the Polish University Abroad in Paris, appeal to you on behalf of 170 professors, readers and lecturers of the Jagellonian University in Cracow, whom the German authorities have arrested arbitrarily, 2 1/2 months ago. They were confined in the concentration camp in Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg near Berlin, where they are inhumanly treated.

The above mentioned professors, as the whole teaching staff of the University were arrested in the following circumstances: on November 6-th last year, the German authorities ordered them to meet at the University in order to listen to a lecture about "Germany in Relation to Science". The arrest took place as soon as they assembled and it was carried out by Dr. Meyer, a high official of the Gestapo at Cracow. Dr. Meyer declared, according to the reports of witnesses, who fortunately escaped, that the reasons for the arrest were:

1. that they were charged to have tried to resume the lectures without the permission of the German authorities,
2. that they have begun to work in institutions for research and have held examinations,
3. that the Jagellonian University has been for five centuries the champion of the Polish nationalist idea.

The arrested Polish professors were turned out in a brutal manner. Some of them, who did not realize the fact, were kicked and beaten. After a short imprisonment in Cracow, they stayed three weeks in the penal prison in Breslau and then they were taken to the concentration camp in Sachsenhausen.

The way in which our colleagues are treated in that camp is unhuman and cruel. Among them there are many over seventy years of age and many invalids. They are not sufficiently fed. They suffer badly from the cold, as the dormitories are unheated. They spend the night on filthy straw pallets, one for two persons, and they are continually brutalised by their jail keepers. Three times a day they are forced to remain out of doors in the frost, bareheaded and in torn prisoner's garments. Finally they are compelled to do hard physical work without any consideration for their age and ill health.

The worst treatment is applied to professors who are priests or Jews. They are isolated from the rest. The Jews e.g. are not allowed to have chairs or benches, and they must therefore sit on bare ground.

Due to these conditions - of which we know through a witness, several of the professors are suffering from serious nervous break down. A number of them lately died. To the names of: Prof. Stanisław ESTREICHER, former rector of the University, Dr. Antoni MAYER of the School of Mines in Cracow and Prof. J. SMOLENSKI, we can add new ones, as those of: M. BEDNARSKI, university lecturer, Prof. A. ROZANSKI, former dean of the Agricultural Faculty, Prof. M. SIEDLECKI, first rector of the University at Wilno and honorary doctor of the University of Strasbourg, and that one of Prof. I. CZERZANOWSKI, a 75 years old professor emeritus.

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The families and close relations of the arrested professors were put out of doors from their furnished apartments, which were at once occupied by Germans, who allowed them to pack only a few personal things. We must add that the families of the arrested professors are absolutely ruined, their salaries being held back by the German authorities.

In addition to the above mentioned 170 professors it is known that as as yet undetermined number of professors from other Polish Universities /LUBLIN, POZNAN and WARSAW/ was put into different prisons.

If we, the undersigned, who have been fortunated enough to escape from the part of Poland occupied by Germans, take the liberty of asking your society's high intervention, we do so, not for the purpose of asking you to protest formally. A formal protest or a similar action could be disastrous in result, as well for the imprisoned, as for their families in Poland. The teaching staff of our first and oldest University forms one of the backbones of our unfortunate Nation. That University founded in 1364 was after the University of Prague, the oldest and the most famous in Central Europe. Nicolas KOPERNIK, one of the members of the Cracow University testifies the special and international significance of this centre of science. Then during the partition of Poland in the XIX century, when Cracow was under the domination of Austria, the Jagellonian University has been the source of arts and science, radiating all over the country. The destruction of the activity of that University would easily make an irretrievable gap in the cultural life of our country.

May we hope, that your noble Institution will take up the cause in order to do all steps at your Government, whose intellectual representa-

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tives you are. Those measures should be before all proceed:

1. to a liberation of the arrested professors through the intermediary of the representative of your country in Berlin;
2. to an intervention of your RED CROSS, in order to help the families of the professors of the Jagellonian University at Cracow.

COMMITTEE of the POLISH UNIVERSITY ABROAD

to become the Polish Council for International Intellectual Cooperation until the end of the war.

On 23 December 1939 the university received, through the Library and Polish Consulate in Geneva, a proposition from the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation and the League of Nations, of preservation of the university publications, meant for the Polish university libraries. In those challenging war times, the university authorities applied themselves to ensure continuous participation of the Polish academic in many independent international organisations. For example, Professor Halecki published an article dedicated to the memory of Harold Temperley from Cambridge in an edition of the International Historical Sciences Council. He also delivered Polish materials for the International Historical Bibliography of 1939 and made efforts to complete two projects initiated before the war, which were an initiative of cooperation with British and French historians with an expected outcome of a collective publication entitled 'The Cambridge History of Poland' (of which the first volume was already in print then). It was also proposed to organise a conference of the Polish and French historians, of which Professor Halecki spoke in his lecture on the state of Polish historical science, read on 28 April 1940 at the session of the Société d'Histoire Moderne.

Polish University Abroad was supposed to organise the proposed conference. In parallel to external operations, the University conducted academic activity in the Legal and Economic and Humanities Departments. Even before its inauguration, the University had been gathering information about Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors from the Polish universities, who managed to escape abroad, as well as those remaining in Poland. A list of 150 names of Professors and Associate Professors and about 80 Assistant Professors was created.

In that academic year about 80 Professors and Associate Professors and 60 Assistant Professors from the Polish universities resided in France; some of them found employment at French universities – Law Professor Rafał Taubenschlag

from the Jagiellonian University worked at Aix University, Professor Jerzy Fegler of the Stefan Batory University was accepted at the Professor Lepicque's laboratory at the Sorbonne, and Professor Tadeusz Walek Czarnecki worked at the École Française in Cairo, where he participated in archaeological excavations, thus continuing the Polish-French cooperation in the field, initiated before the war.

Many Polish Professors served in the Polish Armed Forces, where they gave lectures. Academic lectures for the health service officers were given as early as December 1939, by Professor Stanisław Runge at the Combours base. Many lecture tours were also undertaken by Professors Marian Jedlicki and Stanisław Seliga. In his speeches Rector Halecki often stressed that the university must take care of the young people who could not fight for their country armed.

The overriding motivating factor was the will to ensure continuity of the Polish culture and uninterrupted development of the free Polish education. Over 100 people, men and women in equal numbers, enrolled onto the two available faculties. Not all of them could regularly participate in the lectures, however, they attended most of them. There was also a large number of so-called 'free listeners', who were allowed by the university authorities to attend the courses free of charge. A significant number of young people looking for faculties other than those opened at the Polish University Abroad, contacted the University in order to receive information about possibilities of continuing education at different departments or to seek assistance with enrolling onto the French universities.

The University authorities, in cooperation with the International Academic Organisations, applied for financial support for the students and managed to secure a scholarship of 300 francs for some of them in January 1940. Polish Youth Organisations were established also, and the students were encouraged to continue the mutual aid traditions. On 5 March 1940 an organisation called Brotherly Help was founded – the only Polish organisation supporting the Polish University Abroad students not only

financially but also helping them in the day-to-day academic issues – exams, dissertations or finding the relevant study books.

On 30 March of this year a special letter was sent to the authorities to provide possibility of education at the military camps. Regular lectures at the two aforementioned faculties were held from 21 January 1940 at the Library Hall with a very high attendance. Opening new faculties or offering new courses was strongly considered. Professor Władysław Wrażeja from the Lvov University of Technology presented a memorandum on ‘Preparation of the youth for technical work in the domestic industry and the newly formed army’. Implementation of the ‘Polish’ subjects, essential for sustaining the Polish identity, was considered the most important by the Polish University Abroad. Therefore subjects concerning the country’s regime, Polish law and Polish international relationships were taught at the Legal and Economics Department; and Polish history and literature – at the Humanities Department. Subjects of Polish literature history and modern Polish history were added to the department of ‘Centre d’Etudes Polonaises’, operating at the Polish Library, where all subjects were taught in French. The lectures were aimed at foreign students, and were not limited to just the Polish culture, but also presented its historical links with other cultures.

Lectures on the world history, ancient Latin, French and Slavic culture, philosophy, law theory and international law were introduced. Conferences on the subjects of art history, military history or social history and geography were also planned. Academic difficulties were caused by the fact that a large number of teachers stayed in Angers or served in the army, however, thanks to the enormous commitment from the staff it was possible to open seminars on the subjects of political economics, Polish history methodology, French language and literature and ancient culture. They proved very popular, therefore PUNO authorities made them one of the most important tasks for the future.

On 3 February 1940 the Council of Ministers (thanks to Professor Kot, who

took the responsibility for education issues at the presidium of the government), passed a resolution which provided the university with the essential material grounds: a constant salary for the rector, administrative office and the academic teachers.

The presidium of the Council of Ministers also covered the organisational cost of the commissioning of the university. From December 1939 the university authorities started working on the university statute, in the form of basic principles and a Rule Book and in that shape, as a Temporary Statute, it was submitted for approval in May 1940. Unfortunately, the government did not manage to approve it then. The university administration was very simplified and frugal. The office, open daily between 9am and 1pm and 3-5pm, was run by Professor Skwarczyński. Mrs Godłowska looked after the correspondence, and Mrs Gryziewiczowa – bookkeeping and accountancy. Despite the limited office staff, the correspondence was very extensive: 1560 received and sent letters – as noted by Professor Halecki in his report from 20 June 1940, ‘they already form an archive of our academic exile history in the academic year 1939/1940’.

It was this archive, although not as big as mentioned by Professor Halecki, that Roman Mazur and I found in July 2019, whilst preparing materials for our jubilee ceremony. The collected documents unequivocally present goals and tasks, of which the Polish University Abroad in London is a successor. The historical continuity of the university exists on three levels: staff, idea and structure. Summarising and emphasising the words quoted by the Rector:

“The founders of the Parisian university, who participated in the formation of PUNO in 1947, led their research and teaching activities both in Paris and then in London. Amongst them there were: Professor Oskar Halecki, distinguished academic teacher, chairman of the Organisational Committee of the Polish University Abroad in Paris, rector of this University and vice-rector of PUNO; Professor Stanisław Stroński, philologist, politician, academic as well as the Deputy Prime

Minister and Minister of Information and Documentation in the Cabinet of General Władysław Sikorski lecturer at PUNO from 1951 to 1955; Professor Marian Kukiel, Major General, historian, academic, the Deputy Minister of Military Affairs in Paris and London in 1940, National Defence Minister in 1942-1949.”

The ideological goals and ethos of the Polish University Abroad in Paris were closely related to the educational mission, which was to represent all Polish universities and to maintain the continuity of the Polish higher education, to allow Polish soldiers, their families, refugees and emigrants to continue or commence higher education in Polish outside of Poland as well as to develop academic research and publish its results worldwide. PUNO's mission is to serve all generations of Poles who, outside their mother country or the land of their forebears, wish to continue their academic studies, broaden their knowledge of the contemporary world and maintain contact with Polish science and culture.

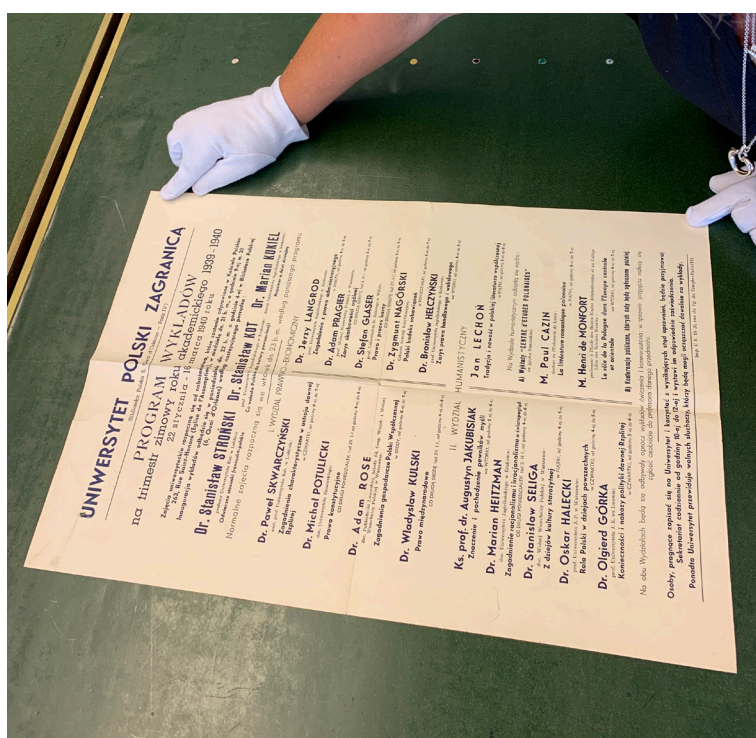
The University's job is also to promote Polish science and culture in the country of residence and worldwide. The Polish University Abroad in Paris founded in its structure the Humanities

Department and the Legal and Economic Department. The first department established at the Polish University Abroad in London was the Humanities Department, followed by the Legal Department and the Economic Department. The Humanities Department was a leading department in Paris and remained such at the Polish University Abroad in London (PUNO). During the 75th Anniversary ceremony our today Honoris Causa Doctor and the then PUNO rector, Professor Halina Taborska, said:

‘Today – in the second decade of the 21st century – we have a young, changed Polish University Abroad in London, whose mission and ethos form a continuation of the earlier PUNO. The university has got a very clear goal: to serve all generations of Poles who, outside their mother country or the land of their forebears, wish to continue their academic studies, broaden their knowledge of the contemporary world and maintain contact with Polish science, culture and language – with the Polish identity’.

Vita est tempus discendi (Life is a time of learning) is our University's motto. Today these words are even more valid, as well as the words of the poem by Józef Bujnowski: VIVAT ACADEMIA!

Prof. dr Grażyna Czubińska
Prorektor PUNO





Registration Documents of The Polish University Abroad for British Charity Commission

in particular to persons of Polish origins in such means as are exclusively charitable in law.

In furtherance of the above object but not further or otherwise the Trust shall have the following powers:-

- (a) to promote support and organise fellowship scholarships conferences seminars study-tours and similar projects;
- (b) to publish or promote or support the publication of the useful results of research undertaken by students;
- (c) to issue certificates or credits towards certificates and degrees recognising completion of courses or achievement of merit;
- (d) to provide endow furnish and fit out with all necessary furniture and other equipment and maintain and manage such buildings and other properties;
- (e) to purchase or otherwise acquire land of whatever tenure or such other properties as may be required for carrying out the purposes of the charity;
- (f) to receive grants;
- (g) to raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscription and otherwise PROVIDED THAT the Association shall not undertake permanent trading activities in raising funds for the said objects;
- (h) model fund raising clause;
- (i) to accept donations from any special trust in connection with the charity so that every donation so accepted shall be held subject to the

THIS DECLARATION of TRUST is made the *Seventh* day of *January* One thousand nine hundred and *eighty-eight* by the persons whose names and occupations appear as signatories to this Deed (hereinafter called "the Trustees") which shall include any person for the time being holding office as a Trustee under the provisions of this Deed

WHEREAS :-

- (a) The Polish University in London has for many years carried on its work as a school of higher education open to all but mostly to students of Polish origin of required standard of education who are desirous of obtaining a higher degree
- (b) To that end the University has organized several faculties and provided lectures, tutorials and seminars to enable the students to prepare for and obtain a degree in their chosen subject
- (c) The funds of the University are derived from benefactions and from the support of voluntary mostly charitable organizations and from donations from individuals.
- (d) The sum of £20,000 received by the Trustees is held upon the Trusts hereinafter declared and it is contemplated that further moneys may from time to time hereafter be paid or transferred to the Trustees to be held by them upon the same trusts hereof.

NOW THEREFORE THIS DEED WITNESSETH as follows:-

1. A Trust is hereby established to be known as "The Polish University in London" (hereinafter called 'the Trust')
2. THE object of the Trust is to advance education

alter or amend the provisions hereof so as to cause the charity to cease to be charitable in law.

5. IN the event of a dissolution of the Trust any assets remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall not be paid to or distributed among the Trustees but shall be given to such other charitable institution or institutions having similar objects to the Trust as the Trustees shall with the approval of the Charity Commissioners decide.

6. (a) THE Trustees shall cause proper minutes to be kept and entered in a book for the purpose of all their resolutions and proceedings and any such minutes of any meeting of the trustees purporting to be signed by the chairman of such meeting or by the chairman of the next succeeding meeting shall be conclusive evidence of the matters stated in such minutes.

(b) The Trustees shall cause full and punctual accounts to be kept of the Trust's funds and all income arising therefrom and all dealings therewith and all payments made thereunder at least once in each year cause to be prepared a statement of accounts and a balance sheet for the previous year and shall cause such accounts to be audited in each year by an auditor appointed by the Trustees.

SIGNED by PROFESSOR DR.)
MIECZYSLAW SAS-SKOWRONSKI

in the presence of:-

H. J. Stock
(H J STOCK)
28 B SAVILLE RD
TUNHAM GREEN
U4 5HQ

W. J. Mary
28 St. Mary's Crescent,
Osterley, Middlesex,
TW7 4NA



Photo 2. Munich School summer field trip. Professor Leon Jończyk with students, 2004, photograph from Barbara Czubernat's archives.

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Photo 3. From the left: Professor Halina Taborska, Professor Wojciech Falkowski, Dr Bernice Falkowska, Professor Alicja Moskalowa, PUNO, 2011, photograph from the University's archives

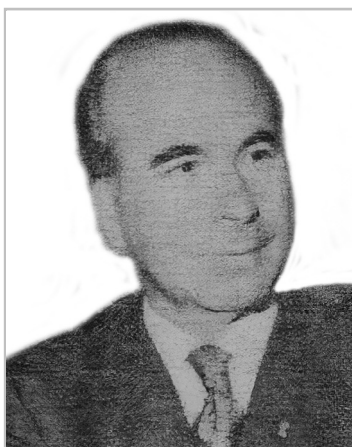
1939 - 2019



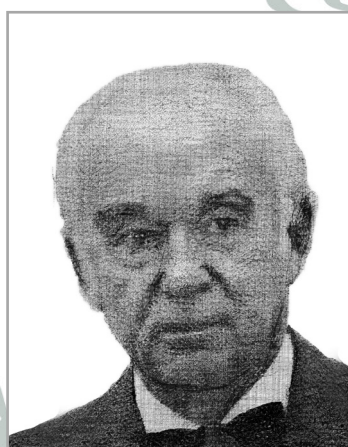
Prof. dr Oskar Halecki
1939-1940



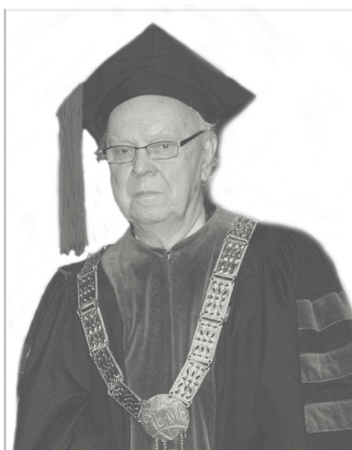
Prof. dr Tadeusz Brzeski
1949-1958



Prof. dr Jerzy Gawenda
1979-1986



Prof. dr Mieczysław Sas-Skowroński
1986-1993



Prof. dr Wojciech Falkowski
2002-2011



Prof. dr Halina Taborska
2011-2017



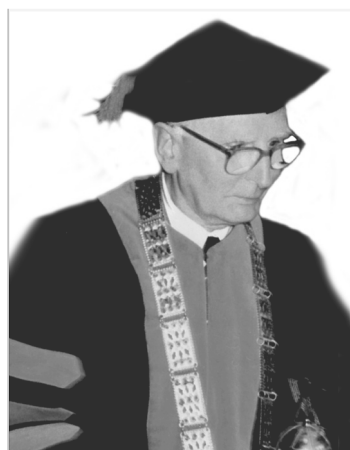
Prof. dr Cezaria Baudouin de Courtenay-
Jędrzejewiczowa 1958-1967



Prof. dr Tadeusz Sulimirski
1969-1979



Prof. dr Jan Drewnowski
1994-1998



Prof. dr Zdzisław E. Wałaszewski
1998-2002



Prof. dr inż. Tomasz J. Kaźmierski
2017-

80 YEARS OF PUNO RECTORS OF THE POLISH UNIVERSITY ABROAD



To the Polish University Abroad (PUNO) community on the occasion of your 50th Anniversary I am sending you my words of regard and with all my heart I bless you for the continued fruitful scientific and academic activity.

Vatican, 7 April 1989

John Paul II

POLISH UNIVERSITY ABROAD (PUNO) – IN THE SERVICE OF THE POLISH CULTURE. REFLECTION ON THE THOUGHTS OF ST. JOHN PAUL II

*Your Magnificence Rector,
Dear Professors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The 80th anniversary of the Polish University Abroad (PUNO) calls us not only to reflect on the University's origins, but also to more thoroughly consider the value of culture and science in the nation's life. After the II World War erupted, PUNO founders were driven by a great mission of preserving from destruction, what was initiated in the dawn of the Polish Second Republic and laboriously created after the years of Partitions. This idea guided the PUNO founders as early as September 1939. The culture is the power that not only unites the nation, but also gives it the strength to survive the most difficult times of its history.

Bishop Karol Wojtyła reflects on this subject in his notes sent to the preparatory commission of the Second Vatican Council. He was at that time an Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Cracow. In his philosophical treatise 'The crisis of the human being in the middle of the 20th century' he asks why it was that the 20th century over just five decades brought three totalitarian regimes, two world wars, millions of dead and wounded, and the greatest persecution of the Church in history? Erroneous approach to a human being and mankind transformed the world into a sea of blood and suffering. The roots of this are in the vicious anthropology – humanity deprived of transcendent reference points became dehumanizing. The Church, according to bishop Wojtyła should propose to the world the idea of a human being, which would combine freedom with truth and moral goodness. It can only be achieved in one way – by returning to the evangelical roots and by fearlessly preaching the word of Christ, who is the answer to the question of each human life.

After the Second Vatican Council, in February 1968, Cardinal Karol Wojtyła returned to this topic in his letter to Henri de Lubac SJ in these words:

'I devote those rare free moments for work, which is very close to my heart, work on metaphysical meaning and mystery of a HUMAN BEING. I believe that the debate is held at this level today. The evil of our times consists in a sort of degradation of the human being, destruction even of the basic uniqueness of each person. It is much more of a metaphysical evil than moral. We must counter this disintegration (...) with a kind of a redefinition of the inviolable mystery of the human being'.

These thoughts were later incorporated into John Paul II's speech at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 2 June 1980. I will quote an extract from that long speech, which will help us to understand the cultural and historical aspect of the initiative to establish PUNO.

"If in the name of culture's future it is necessary to call for the right of man to 'exist' more – if in the name of the same purpose it is necessary to demand a healthy pre-eminence of family in the act of upbringing a man to true humanity – then the right of the nation must be placed in the same line. It must also be placed at the core of the upbringing and culture, as the nation is this great community united by various binds, but culture above all. The nation exists 'because of the culture' and 'for the culture' – which is why the culture is the great counsellor for people to 'be more' a part of the community, which has a longer history than each man and his family – at the same time a part of the community forming a base for the family, starting with the

simplest things: a language, which each child learns to become a member of this community, which is his family and his nation. A particular experience and a particular testimony come to live in what I am saying and in what I would like to say further.

I am a son of a nation, which experienced the most terrible of fates, which was sentenced to death by its neighbours multiple times – and yet it managed to stay alive. It retained its identity and – amongst the Partitions and the Occupation – its sovereignty as a nation, not on the basis of some means of physical power, but of its own culture, which turned out to be a stronger power than those other ones. This is why what I am saying about the rights of the nation, culture basis and its future is not an echo of some ‘nationalism’, but remains a constant element of human experience and humanistic perspective of a man. There is a basic sovereignty of a society that expresses itself in the nation’s culture. At the same time it is this sovereignty, by which the man is the most sovereign” (no 14).

The unity of the nation, regardless of the place of residence, was clearly stressed two years later during his meeting with the Poles in Great Britain.

‘It is not possible to think about you using the term ‘emigration’. One must think about you starting from the expression ‘homeland’. It is true that before WWII in England there were a few Poles, who emigrated. However, those who found themselves there because of the war, were not emigrants. They were Poland torn out from its own borders, from its own battlefields – Poland, merely 20 years before awoken to an independent existence, Poland which was rapidly rebuilding itself from centuries of devastation and impairments, Poland finally which faced yet another attempt of being split like in the 18th century, by a terrible, murderous war against the overwhelming force of the invaders. (...). You, who formed today’s British Polonia, are to me not emigration, but above all a living part of Poland, which even torn out from its own land does not

stop being itself. Moreover, it lives on aware that in it, in this very part, the whole Poland lives in a very particular way. (...) Poland is one of the most severely wounded countries on our globe. One of the homelands that suffered deepest – and at the same time one of the most loved. Perhaps it is this strange spiritual displacement of its sons and daughters, most often the best ones, that forms the mystery of this extraordinary affection for the homeland: it is spiritually present through its physical absence’.

Reading these words I see the necessity of the effective forming and existence of the Polish University Abroad (PUNO). The official decree of President Raczkiewicz, which grants the university full rights of a Polish higher education institution, is dated 15 December 1952. However, the university was a successor of the Polish University Abroad in Paris founded in 1939. Historical accounts stress that the Polish University Abroad (PUNO)’s operation is a natural continuation of the academics work after leaving France in 1940 and settling in Great Britain. After the defeat of France around 27,000 Polish soldiers and officers evacuated to Great Britain, along with a large number of refugees. Great Britain became a home also for the Polish academic teachers, who formed the Polish University Abroad in Paris.

The history of the university is therefore tied with the Polish presence in Great Britain during and after WWII. There were Polish faculties at British universities: Teachers College in Edinburgh, Law Department in Oxford, Polish School of Architecture in Liverpool, Medical and Veterinary Departments in Edinburgh. The Polish Government in Exile took care of the Polish studies in Great Britain, however, the situation changed when the ‘Big Three’ recognised the Provisional Government of National Unity in Warsaw and removed their support for the Polish Government in London. The British authorities started to encourage the Poles to return to Poland, at the same time liquidating Polish education. They did not allow

recruiting new students for the Polish faculties. The decrees of the Polish President in London signed in the 1940s, laid the legal base in 1952 for a university, which had the name of Polish University Abroad (PUNO) in London - Polski Uniwersytet na Obczyźnie w Londynie, based at 9 Princes Gardens until 1976, and then at POSK, where it has its headquarters today. Polish University Abroad (PUNO) attracted many distinguished Polish scientists and people of culture. 80 distinguished Polish Professors and Associate Professors and 60 Assistant Professors participated at the meeting in the Polish Library in Paris in November 1939.

Buildings and an infrastructure are important, but the university is – above all – a community of teachers and students. Using an account by Dr Joanna Pyłat, I will quote a list of PUNO staff members in the Department of Humanities, the Faculty Commission of Law and Political Sciences, Faculty Commission of Economics and Faculty Commission of Life Sciences and Mathematics. Those were: Oskar Halecki, Tadeusz Brzeski, Marian Kukiel, Stefan Glaser Bronisław Helczyński, Tadeusz Grodzieński, Eugeniusz Jarra, Stanisław Stroński, Waław Komarnicki, and many others – it is impossible to mention them all. The process of creation and existence of the independent university must be placed in its socio-political context. PUNO was, as an independent institution, a centre of academic research in the

Polish community not only in London. Today it also holds a very important place in our Polish life in Great Britain. The anniversary ceremonies are not only an occasion to look at the past, but also to take over the same enthusiasm for conducting academic research and pass it on to the fellow academics. PUNO, operating abroad, serves those Poles, who want to expand their knowledge, gain academic degrees and acquire professional qualifications.

Addressing the Polonia World Council in Rome on 17 May 1984, John Paul II also spoke about passing our heritage on to the young generation. He referred to a poetic picture from Psalm 136, describing refugees by the rivers of Babylon: “This song, that you had taken from your parents’ lips, sing in such a way that your sons and daughters and then grandchildren take it from yours, so that never comes a generation which, weary of toil, would silence their harps and hang them on the willows.”. A year later, during a meeting with a Polish audience in Brussels, he added: “Certainly our heritage is great, but also difficult. We must discover it ever anew, deepen it, live it, pass it on to those, who come after us”.

It is for us to reflect on a practical way of imparting this heritage of which John Paul II spoke, and of which a part also forms the intellectual and organisational effort by the Polish University Abroad (PUNO) in the new circumstances and new places of our stay.

*Ks. prof. Stefan Wylęzek
Rector of the Polish Catholic Mission
in England and Wales*

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Dr Grażyna Czubińska, *PUNO – niepodległa uczelnia polska poza Polską*

Prof. Halina Taborska, *Polski Uniwersytet na Obczyźnie – historia teraźniejszość, przyszłość*



LAUDATORY SPEECH ON CONFERRING THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA TO PROFESSOR HALINA TABORSKA

*Your Magnificence Rector,
High Senate of the Polish University Abroad,
Dear Academic Community,
Dear Guests,*

25 It was not a coincidence that this summer the Polish media, print media included, published reviews of a freshly released book 'Art in the place of death. European monuments of Nazism victims' (*Sztuka w miejscach śmierci. Europejskie pomniki ofiar hitleryzmu*), whose author, Professor Halina Taborska, awarded the degree of PUNO Doctor Honoris Causa in London, is the hero of today's anniversary ceremony. The voice of the media critics, analysing the subject of the art in the places of death undertaken by the Author, amplify the sense of people's experiences, preserved in the places of human tragedies, symbolised by the European monuments of the victims of Nazism. Thousands of lives, destroyed by the Nazi crimes, are gone forever. There is art, whose symbolic expression recalls their fate, enters into dialogue with their memory and provokes a dialogue with those who can experience its artistic codes. Because art is immortal...

It is a particular phenomenon of Professor Halina Taborska's cultural and academic achievements, that, even briefly, we can talk about them today, in the year of the 80th anniversary of the Second World War, because her publication fits well into the current reflections about those cruel times, feeds the imagination and thoughts of the modern recipient of various generations, provides invaluable knowledge and awakens human empathy. This is why with these, so important today topics, I have commenced today's

laudatory speech, presenting the multilateral cultural and academic achievements, which also express the Professor's organisational and social commitments. 'Can art bring catharsis, evoke a sense of fear and compassion, increase empathy for the war victims' fate?' – the Author asks. The book reviewer, Professor Jolanta Chwastyk-Kowalczyk, provides an answer to this by describing the excellent graphic design of the publication as a silent choral cry of the surviving collective memory. The question asked is a question about the meaning of the universe of experiences, conveyed by art in the diversity of its shapes; art so needed by the modern recipient; art which could and should invite to an international dialogue – just how Professor Halina Taborska's priceless text and contained within it perfectly factual description of all presented places does.

Professor Halina Taborska's academic achievements in the field of cultural studies and her higher education activities are impressive. It is worth mentioning briefly that she graduated from the Warsaw University, where she studied Polish philology. She then continued at the same university, at the Philosophy Department, with a PhD under the mentorship of Professor Władysław Tatarkiewicz. Later she obtained a diploma and habilitation in the English Language and Literature at Cambridge University. Between 1975 and 1998 she was an academic teacher and guest lecturer of art and design history, and idea and aesthetics history at, amongst others, Oxford University, Harvard University, City

University of New York Graduate Center, Union Theological Seminary in New York, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, San Francisco State University, Berkeley.

Since 2002 Professor Halina Taborska has been an academic at the Polish University Abroad in London (PUNO). Between 2002-2006 she was the Head of Institute of Contemporary British Culture; since 2007 she has been a director of the PUNO European Culture Institute. Between 2008-2011 she was a vice-rector of PUNO and then from September 2011 until August 2017 Professor Halina Taborska was the PUNO rector.

Professor Halina Taborska continues working at PUNO and for PUNO. Her academic and organisational contributions are priceless and it would be very hard to imagine an end of this cooperation.

Since the 1980s the main area of her academic research is community and public art – monuments raised in memory of the WWII victims in the public spaces of Europe, as well as contemporary public art and art culture of European towns and cities, its forms and purposes in the new or refurbished urban spaces. Her publications related to these areas include: 'Current Issues in Public Art', London 1998; 'Contemporary Public Art and Architecture', London 1999; in Polish: *Współczesna sztuka publiczna. Dzieła i problemy*, ('Contemporary Public Art. Masterpieces and problems') Warszawa 1996; *Nowy Londyn –miasto i jego sztuka publiczna*, ('New London – the city and its public art') Londyn 2004; *Miasto, które nie zginęło. Ludność Cywilna Warszawy 1939 –1945 i pomniki jej poświęcone*, ('The city that did not die. Civilians of Warsaw 1939-1945 and the monuments raised in their memory') Warszawa 2014, *Sztuka w*

miejscach śmierci. Europejskie pomniki ofiar hitleryzmu, ('Art in the places of death. European monuments of Nazi victims') Kraków 2019.

Today, the distinguished Professor of Humanities, Halina Taborska, philosopher and culture expert, pursuant to decision of the Senate, receives a PUNO Doctorate Honoris Causa.

Halina Taborska is a researcher of the culture and historical memory of Poles and Europeans in 20th and 21st century; a defender of human connection preserved in the dramatic Polish history; an initiator of the international dialogue; an author of insightful academic publications; an invaluable academic teacher at many universities of the world and first and foremost a wonderful lecturer and former rector of the Polish University Abroad in London. Her academic experience, as well as great sense of the phenomenon for time and space, new needs and expectations of the culturally differentiated generation of the Polish community in Great Britain, have helped her to restructure the university. Today PUNO fulfils its mission linking the beautiful tradition of academic and cultural freedom with the educational needs of the modern Polish emigration. It cooperates with young Polish academic from British universities, organises and co-organises international conferences, conducts academic research, art and literature workshops and open lectures at the Polish Culture course.

It is thanks to the mind and heart of the former rector, Professor Halina Taborska, that PUNO thrives and we can hope that it will continue to thrive for the next generation of Poles, teaching them Polish culture and developing new definitions of the Polish identity abroad.

Prof. dr hab. Ewa Lewandowska-Tarasiuk



HONORIS CAUSA DOCTORATE ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

27

*Your Magnificence Rector,
High Senate of the Polish University Abroad,
Dear Academic Community, Distinguished Guests,*

I very much regret that I cannot stand before you today to thank the PUNO Senate in person for the honour bestowed upon me. As a justification I can merely quote from the Bible: the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

A Honoris Causa doctorate granted by PUNO is as remarkable as the university itself. PUNO is the only Polish university to award this honourable title almost solely to Poles or people with Polish roots, working abroad. Amongst them are world class scientists, a Nobel laureate, generals, priests, artists representing fields of poetry, music, painting and theatre. Also, contrary to established academic customs, PUNO has awarded several Honoris Causa doctorates to its own Professors, who contributed

to its development, prevented the university from losing its independence and fought for its survival in financially difficult times. Among the 63 people awarded the Honoris Causa doctorate by PUNO, there are 9 women, three of whom I would like to recall at this celebration of the 80th anniversary of the independent Polish university outside the Polish borders.

The first one was a historian Regina Oppmanowa, who graduated from the University of Warsaw. She worked at the Military Archive in Warsaw. After the war she emigrated to London, and from 1951 to 1980 she was an archivist at one of the most respectable institutions of the Polish emigration – the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in

London. She was nominated the First Lady of the archival science and in 1980 she received the Honoris Causa doctorate from PUNO.

In 1988 the Honoris Causa doctorate was awarded to Professor Karolina Lanckorońska. An extraordinary figure, a distinguished historian and art historian, during WWII a Union of Armed Struggle (Związek Walki Zbrojnej) soldier, then of the Home Army (Armia Krajowa); between 1942 and 1945 she was imprisoned at the Ravensbrück concentration camp. After the war, she continued her social, academic and scientific activities; from 1951 to 2002 she was a foreign lecturer at PUNO. Invaluable patron of Polish science and culture, together with her brother Antoni, in the Swiss city of Fribourg, she established the Karol Lanckoroński Fund, since 1967 operating under the name of De Brzezie Lanckoronski Foundation. The latter foundation, since 1977 also based in London, supports many individual and collective activities in the fields of learning and culture, also including conference and editorial projects of PUNO.

In 1999 Dame Cicely Saunders received a PUNO Honoris Causa doctorate – it was one of over 20 honorary degrees and distinctions awarded to her in Great Britain and overseas for her pioneering work on palliative medical care and pain management. Founded by her in 1967, The St. Christopher Hospice, a modern palliative care centre, has over the years become a model and inspiration for many hospices, also in Poland, which she visited in 1978 with a series of lectures on the contemporary hospice movement, given in Cracow, Warsaw and Gdansk. She died of cancer

in 2005 at the St. Christopher Hospice, where the walls were decorated with excellent paintings by her Polish husband, Marian Bohusz-Szyszko, who was a fine art teacher at PUNO for many years.

In the anniversary year 2014 the Senate awarded the Honoris Causa doctorate to two Professors from the oldest generation: based and working in London Professor Alicja Moskalowa, a distinguished humanist, for many years the Humanistic Faculty dean at PUNO, and Professor Andrzej Żaki, a renowned archaeologist and historian, who was also an archaeology teacher at PUNO. In 1977 Professor Żaki founded the Friends of PUNO Association in Switzerland; three years later he founded a quarterly journal 'Universitas', which he tirelessly edited until 2001.

Five years have passed and our next jubilee approached, bringing a great moment for yet another PUNO academic from the passing generation. My academic work was mentioned, as usual in a very moving and poetic manner, by Professor Ewa Lewandowska-Tarasiuk in her laudation, for which I would like to thank her very warmly. I bow down to the PUNO Senate, the university Administration and all of my fellow Academics, who supported me in numerous activities and difficult moments, trusted me and treated me with great kindness. I thank you very much and wish that the university, in whose interest we all work mostly as volunteers, develops successfully over many coming years.

Prof. dr hab. Halina Taborska



**Marshal of the Senate
of the Republic of Poland**
Stanisław Karczewski

Warsaw, 14 September 2019

His Magnificence
Professor Tomasz Kaźmierski
Rector of the Polish University Abroad

Dear Rector,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for the invitation to the 80th Anniversary of the Polish University Abroad ceremony. Prior commitments have not allowed me to participate in person, therefore I am conveying my congratulations and wishes in the form of this letter.

From the history of Europe and the World in the first half of the 20th century, one can understand how difficult it is to unite a nation, that had been dispersed for over a hundred years, and also what effort must be made to maintain this freshly regained unity if the fate is not kind. In order to preserve the continuity of the Polish higher education after the invasion of Poland in 1939, the Polish University Abroad in Paris was founded. Then, after the defeat of France, only in 1949 PUNO, the Polish University Abroad, was established in London which exists until today as a symbol of custody not only over the Polish science beyond Poland, but also over the Polish identity generally.

Dear Rector, dear Participants of the 80th Anniversary of the Polish University Abroad ceremony!

I think of the Polish University in London as of an essential link in the worldwide chain of sustaining of the Polish science and culture. The very existence of the University for over 80 years speaks of its high quality, but the same can be certified by hundreds of its graduates, Poles and their offspring, who in exile wanted to gain knowledge and skills to improve their emigree fate. This pragmatic aspect of the Polish University Abroad activities for many decades meets the current expectations, which I am clearly stating: that a Pole abroad is both a valuable citizen of the country of residency and a good ambassador of the Polish identity within his or her local community. Institutions such as PUNO allow and help to achieve such a status by anyone who wishes to take part in the scientific life or develop further their skills.

I would like to thank all of you, the University Authorities and Staff, for your everyday hard work, which supports the efforts of the Polish Diaspora around the world to preserve Polish good name in the world. I am asking you to keep going and maintain your efforts to support the great educational idea which benefits the Polish Diaspora and Poles both in Poland and abroad.

I also congratulate the graduates who have chosen the Polish University Abroad, an institution founded in the times so tragic for Poland; an institution that during and after the war preserved in London the ethos of the Polish academic activity.

I would like to thank you all for remembering Poland and your concern for Poles abroad. I wish you all a nice evening during the concert and the ball.

Respectfully yours,



Photo 4. 75th PUNO Anniversary Ceremony, Dr Grażyna Czubińska, Theatre Hall, POSK, 2014, photograph from the University's archives



Photo 5. Honoris Causa Doctorate for Professor Zbigniew Pelczyński, Inauguration Ceremony of the Academic Year 2015/16 at PUNO, Malinowa Hall, POSK, 2015, photograph from the University's archives



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Tomasz J. Kaźmierski PhD
Rector of the Polish University Abroad
POSK, 238 King Street,
London W6 0RF
15.09.2019

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank you and the Senate of the Polish University Abroad for the invitation to participate in the celebration of the anniversary of the first Polish university outside the country's borders. I would like to convey my sincere congratulations on this beautiful jubilee. 80 years of educational work, often in very difficult circumstances, is a wonderful achievement. That's 80 years of commitment, sacrifice and appreciation of the necessity of promoting Polish academic endeavour in Great Britain. All those, who in these 80 years gave their time, engagement and educational experience for the sake of Poles living in Great Britain – and not only – must be congratulated and we must heartily thank them. They helped young Polish people, whose higher education in Poland was interrupted by world events, to fulfil their ambitions, obtain academic degrees and continue their studies in the country of residence.

I sincerely hope that the university, founded 80 years ago, has many fruitful years of work ahead of it which I wish you from the bottom of my heart.

Yours truly

Aleksandra Podhorodecka - Chairman



Photo 6. 75th PUNO Anniversary Ceremony, from the left: Prelate Professor Władysław Wyszowadzki, Professor Zofia Butrym, Professor Bolesław Indyk, Theatre Hall POSK, 2014, photograph from the University's archives

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Photo 7. April PUNO Conference, Malinowa Hall, POSK, 2016, photograph by Roman Mazur, from the University's archives



Pomorski Uniwersytet Medyczny w Szczecinie

Rektor

Szczecin, dnia 05 września 2019 roku

His Magnificence
Professor Tomasz Kaźmierski
Rector of the Polish University Abroad
In London

Your Magnificence, Most Esteemed Rector,

I would like to thank you cordially for the invitation to the 80th Anniversary of the Polish University Abroad ceremony, which is taking place on 11-12 October 2019. Unable to participate in the ceremony in person, I would like to convey my best wishes and congratulations to the community of the Polish University Abroad in London on the day of this wonderful jubilee. I would like to wish you many further accomplishments and continuous development of the University, which is an extremely important centre of academic life for all young Polish emigres, inspiring them to love their native language, passion for the Polish history and culture and the will to maintain their national identity whilst abroad.

I wish the University authorities, academic staff and administrative officers many more years filled with satisfactory, creative and effective work, rich in new development possibilities. I would like to address the students in particular, wishing them the best possible results in accordance with the University motto: 'Vita est tempus discendi' and fulfilment of your plans for the future.

Respectfully yours,

Professor Bogusław Michaliński, MD, DSc
Rector of the Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin



Photo 8. VIII International April Conference PUNO 2018: 'The Contribution of Polish Architects to British Architecture and Spatial Planning after 1945', photograph by Roman Mazur, from the University's archives



Photo 9. November PUNO Conference, bottom row from the left: Professor Halina Taborska, Dr Grażyna Czubińska, Dr Magdalena Łuzniak-Piecha and Dr Izabela Krejtz, Multimedia Room, POSK, 2016, photograph by Roman Mazur, from the University's archives



Photo 10. Exhibition at the Conference – TICASS (EU Programme Horizon 2020), POSK Gallery 2019, photograph by Roman Mazur, from the University's archives



Photo 11. Symposium 'Architectural Literary Studies – Place and Identity', from the left: Professor Tomasz Kaźmierski, Dr Justyna Gorzkowicz, Dr Aleksandra Wójtowicz, Multimedia Room, POSK, 2019, photograph by Jarosław Solecki, from the University's archives

Dear Readers,

You are holding in your hands a unique jubilee publication, which presents ‘the milestones’ in the history of the first Polish university abroad. A university, which since 1939, has been following the same path of service to the Polish academia in exile – from the Polish University Overseas in Paris to the Polish University Abroad (PUNO) in London.

One of the initiatives included in the University’s 80th Anniversary celebrations are PUNO Open Lectures, addressed to the youngest generation of the Polish emigration (EU emigration). They are intended to inform them of the possibilities of acquiring academic knowledge and practical education offered by PUNO. Very often these skills and abilities help in finding employment and settling in the new circumstances, which is not easy in the multicultural and multinational environments of today’s Europe, where thousands of Polish children are born, where the number of mixed marriages continues to increase, where we witness constant processes of acculturation and inculturation, and the traditional patriotism seems to be losing its power and attractiveness. The role of a Polish university outside the country is helping in these difficult moments, promoting the Polish culture and demonstrating its contributions into the multicultural European and world communities.

The 100th Anniversary of the Independence of Poland and 80th Anniversary of PUNO celebrations offer a great opportunity to reinforce such activities. The first Open Lectures were held in the USA (Michigan, Chicago, Wheeling) and Great Britain (Oxford). In June 2019 a workshop and a symposium for teachers of Polish Saturday schools and representatives of aid organisations helping the Polish Diaspora in Scotland. Further symposia and conferences are planned as well as new research projects, amongst others a project to document academic achievements of Polish academics in Great Britain. PUNO also continues its primary activity – doctoral studies, postgraduate courses and professional development courses.

The time has come to say thank you.

On behalf of the University authorities, the Senate and all the employees of the Polish University Abroad (PUNO) in London, I would like to thank you for being with us today. We thank our Honourable Patrons and Benefactors as well as the media who accompany us today. I also wish to express my gratitude to all those involved in the preparation of our Jubilee Gala, our staff and students and the PUNO administration team, who have done a tremendous work preparing this ceremony and all the accompanying events. PUNO would not exist without all these people. I thank them also on my own behalf because working with them is an honour for me.

Prof. dr Grażyna Czubińska

DOCTORS HONORIS CAUSA OF THE POLISH UNIVERSITY ABROAD

2019	HALINA TABORSKA	1991	ACHILLES DE LAURANT
2018	IRENA DELMAR-CZARNECKA		ANTONIO DE SOUSA LARA
2017	ANNA MARIA STAŃCZYK	1990	STANISŁAW ŚWIANIEWICZ
2016	JOHN ŻARNECKI	1989	PETER BANDER VAN DUREN
2015	ZBIGNIEW A. PEŁCZYŃSKI		JOHN TANNER
2014	ANDRZEJ ŻAKI		KARD. WŁADYSŁAW RUBIN
	ALICJA MOSKALOWA	1988	KAROLINA LANCKOROŃSKA
2013	KS. PRAŁAT STEFAN WYLĘŻEK	1987	KLEMENS RUDNICKI
2012	JERZY BOGDAN CYNK		STANISŁAW MACZEK
2011	JAN CIECHANOWSKI		CAROLINE COX
2010	STANISŁAW PORTALSKI	1986	JANINA HEYDZIANKA-PILATOWA
	ADAM ZAMOYSKI	1985	ANDRZEJ PANUFNIK
2009	JERZY WYROZUMSKI	1982	EDWARD RACZYŃSKI
	JACK LOHMAN	1981	WŁADYSŁAW BARTOSZEWSKI
	KS.BISKUP ANDRZEJ F. DZIUBA		JÓZEF CZAPSKI
2008	KAROL SIKORA		JÓZEF MARIA PONIATOWSKI
	KRYSTYNA BEDNARCZYK	1980	MARIAN BOHUSZ-SZYSZKO
2007	BOLESŁAW TABORSKI		MOLLER CHRISTENSEN
	MICHAŁ KLEIBER		REGINA OPPMAN
2006	KS. PRAŁAT ZDZISŁAW PESZKOWSKI		TADEUSZ SULIMIRSKI
2005	ZBIGNIEW BRZEZIŃSKI	1977	TADEUSZ KASPRZYCKI
	LESZEK BORYSIEWICZ		TADEUSZ REICHSTEIN
2004	JÓZEF ROTBLAT		HENRYK MICHAŁ ZYGALSKI
2003	JAN NOWAK - JEZIORAŃSKI	1976	MIECZYŚŁAW CHMIELEWSKI
	JÓZEF GARLIŃSKI	1973	OSKAR HALECKI
2002	JAN WŁADYSŁAW WOŚ	1972	STANISŁAW OSTROWSKI
	APOLONIUSZ ZAWILSKI		ROMAN LUDWIK WAJDA
1999	JÓZEF JASNOWSKI	1971	ADAM PRAGIER
	CICELY SAUNDERS		BRONISŁAW HEŁCZYŃSKI
1998	JÓZEF BUJNOWSKI	1970	MARIAN KUKIEL
1992	KS. STANISŁAW ŚWIERCZYŃSKI	1969	ZYGMUNT NAGÓRSKI
	KS.JERZY MIREWICZ		WŁADYSŁAW JAN WRAŻEJ

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