

1.XII.1939 Paris - 17.X.2014 London

# PUNO



**75 YEARS  
OF PUNO  
THE POLISH  
UNIVERSITY ABROAD**



**Inauguration of academic year 1998/99**  
**From left to right: Professor Irena Lachman, Professor Mieczysław Paszkiewicz,**  
**Father Professor Józef Gula, Professor Zdzisław Wałaszewski, Professor Zofia**  
**Butrym, Professor Wojciech Falkowski**



**Professor Jerzy Wyrozumski, Ph.D. honoris causa PUNO 2009,**  
**President of the Polish Republic in Exile, Ryszard Kaczorowski**

---

# 75 years of the Polish University Abroad

London 17 October 2014  
SIGILLUM UNIVERSITATIS POLONORUM IN EXTERIS

## HONORARY PATRONS OF THE CEREMONY

**\* Professor LENA KOLARSKA-BOBIŃSKA \***  
Minister of Science and Higher Education

**\* H E WITOLD SOBKÓW \***  
Ambassador of the Polish Republic to the United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland

**\* Senator ANDRZEJ PERSON \***  
Chairman of the Commission for Émigré Affairs and Liaison with Poles Abroad

**\* Senator BARBARA BORYS-DAMIEŃKA \***  
Deputy-chair of the Commission for Émigré Affairs and Liaison with Poles Abroad

**\* Professor Michał Kleiber \***  
President of the Polish Academy of Sciences

**\* Professor ANDRZEJ BIAŁAS \***  
President of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences

**\* Professor JERZY WYROZUMSKI \***  
Secretary General of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences

---

**\* Mrs KAROLINA KACZOROWSKA \***  
Widow of the late President of the Polish Republic in Exile

**\* Father Prelate STEFAN WYLĘŻEK \***  
Rector of the Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales

**\* Mr TADEUSZ STENZEL \***  
President of the Polish Association in Great Britain

**\* Mrs JOANNA MŁUDZIŃSKA \***  
Chair of the Polish Social and Cultural Association Ltd.

**\* Mrs ALEKSANDRA PODHORODECKA \***  
President of the Polish Educational Society Abroad

**\* Mrs HELENA MIZINIAK \***  
President of the Union of Polish Communities in Europe

---

---

## Order of the Day

Master of Ceremonies: Grażyna Czubińska

\*

Gaudeamus Igitur, Schola Gregoriana

\*

Choir conducted by Przemysław Salamoński

\*

Welcoming address: Her Magnificence the Rector, Halina Taborska

\*

Address by H E the Ambassador of the Polish Republic to the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mr Witold Sobków

\*

The Investiture of the Rector, Prof. Dr hab. Halina Taborska, into the Officer's Cross of the  
Order of the Restoration of Poland

\*

Addresses by Honorary Patrons

\*

The History, Present and Future of PUNO, Rector Prof. Dr hab. Halina Taborska

\*

Inaugural address: 'Professor Cezaria Baudouin de Courtenay Ehrenkreutz Jędrzejowiczowa –  
scholar, women's rights advocate, champion', Dr Agnieszka Kościańska, Deputy Director of  
the Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology Institute, University of Warsaw

\*

Award of certificates to representatives of post-graduate students and attendees of the  
University of the Third Age

\*

Honorary doctorates:

\*

Professor Dr Andrzej Żaki

Laudation: Professor Dr hab. Jolanta Chwastyk-Kowalczyk

\*

Professor Dr Alicja Moskalowa

Laudation: Professor Dr hab. Ewa Lewandowska-Tarasiuk

\*

Letters of congratulation

\*

Expressions of gratitude and close of ceremonies: Her Magnificence the Rector, Prof. Dr. hab.  
Halina Taborska

\*

The national anthem

\*

Concert by the Schola Gregoriana Choir, conductor: Grzegorz Salamoński.  
Jubilee reception at the Łowiczanka restaurant, POSK, 1st floor, 8 p.m.

\*

Saturday 18 October, 10 a.m.

Holy Mass at the Polish Church of St. Andrew Bobola, in the London parish of Father Marek  
Reczko. We ask that you join us there and pray together for the deceased professors and  
workers of our university, and for the well-being of all the living members of our academic  
community and its friends.



# THE POLISH UNIVERSITY ABROAD

\*

## RECTOR

**Professor Dr hab. Halina Taborska**

## PRO-RECTOR

**Professor Dr Stefan Stańczyk**

\*

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**Dean: Professor Dr Alicja Moskalowa**

**Deputy Dean: Professor Dr Zofia Butrym**

**POLISH EMIGRATION RESEARCH UNIT**

**TEACHING IN THE POLISH DIASPORA UNIT**

\*

## INSTITUTE OF EUROPEAN CULTURE

**Director: Professor Dr hab. Halina Taborska**

**Deputy Director: Grażyna Czubińska**

**APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY UNIT**

**NATIONAL MINORITY CULTURES UNIT**

**CONTEMPORARY LITERARY AND ARTISTIC CULTURE UNIT**

**CONTEMPORARY BRITISH CULTURE UNIT**

\*

## INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL SCIENCES

**Director: Professor Dr Stefan Stańczyk**

**Deputy Director: Dr Marian Zastawny**

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UNIT**

**HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY UNIT**

**ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH AND DESIGN UNIT**

\*

## ADMINISTRATION

**Halina Stochniol, MA, Secretary of PUNO**

**Urszula Lenik, MA, BURSAR,**

**Maria Dowgiel, MA, FUNDRAISER,**

**Danuta Nadaj, COURSE ADMINISTRATOR,**

**Roman Mazur, MBA, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT, PUNO**



**LOTTERY FUNDED**





MINISTER OF  
SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION  
Professor Lena Kolarska-Bobińska

Warsaw, 6 October 2014

**Prof. Dr hab. Halina Taborska**  
**Rector**  
**PUNO**

Esteemed Madam Rector

It is with pleasure that as Minister of Science and Higher Education I have taken honorary patronage of the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the Polish University Abroad. This is an excellent opportunity to remind ourselves of the history and achievements of the University, and also to vouch for the great respect that the institution that you direct commands both in Poland and beyond its borders.

The role of the Polish University Abroad has always been and still is unique. The circumstances of its foundation and its initial objectives are evidence of this. For years you were a symbol of sovereign Poland. You were linked to such prominent figures in academia and culture as the historian Professor Stanisław Kot, and the artist and writer Józef Czapski. We all know that from the point of view of learning freedom is the key value, since learning is freedom.

I am also proud of the way the Polish University Abroad fulfils its mission to continue Polish higher education beyond our country's borders. This is particularly important today, when a substantial proportion of Poles resides permanently or temporarily outside Poland. The opportunity for contact with Polish learning and culture afforded to them by the Polish University Abroad contributes to the preservation and cultivation of our national culture and tradition.

In addition, the Polish University Abroad seeks to meet the intellectual needs of young Poles living in Great Britain. A good education provides skills and qualifications for further active participation in the community.

Madam Rector, I place in your hands expressions of commendation for the research work your institution has been carrying out; I wish you continuing fruitfulness in the field of education, and further success in propagating the achievements of Polish scholarship in the world.

With expressions of respect



The Ambassador  
of the Polish Republic  
to the United Kingdom  
of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland

Her Magnificence  
Rector of the Polish University Abroad  
Professor Dr hab. Halina Taborska

Your Magnificence,  
Honourable Senate,  
Esteemed Professors and Students  
of the Polish University Abroad,

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Polish University Abroad, I wish to convey to the esteemed Madam Rector my warmest wishes, congratulating her on a magnificent jubilee.

The Polish University Abroad, founded and directed by Polish émigrés, has served the diaspora since 1939 as a bastion of Polishness for those forced by circumstances to leave their country. The activity of this institution was an important factor in developing and maintaining Polish identity at a time when London was the base of Polish state structures, or, as the saying went, 'Poland outside Poland'.

Over the decades, the functions performed by the Polish University Abroad have changed from those of a centre serving Poles deprived of the possibility of studying in their homeland, and for whom emigration was a necessity, to those of an institution welcoming in its ranks people searching for opportunities for development outside their country and tapping into the rich resources of this deserving outpost. That notwithstanding, the mission of the Polish University Abroad has remained unchanged, namely to preserve ties with the fatherland, its history and language.

I wish to express the hope that the role of the Polish University Abroad will grow in strength as it addresses new challenges, and that the institution will successfully tap into its potential and many years of experience, so that it can serve successive generations of Poles who have chosen to settle in the British Isles.

Along with the multitude of other supporters of the University's activity, we appreciate your commitment to carrying out a wide range of research and teaching tasks, with benefit to the émigré Polish community, the host country and Poland.

Once again I convey my heart-felt congratulations on the occasion of this beautiful jubilee and my wishes for many successes in the further fruitful activity of the Polish University Abroad.

With expressions of respect,

Witold Sobków  
Ambassador

---

# POLISH UNIVERSITY ABROAD – HISTORY, PRESENT AND FUTURE

## Halina Taborska

### HISTORY

December 1939: the first war-year approaches its end, and sees the foundation of the first Polish university outside the beleaguered country. It is the start of 75 years in the history of Poland's smallest institution of higher education, whose fate is dramatically and inextricably intertwined with that of Poland.

On the night of 17-18 September 1939 members of the Government of the Second Republic leave their homeland. Along with them go several hundred academics from Polish universities. Some 80 professors and 60 lecturers are soon to join the new university abroad. There is a frenzied and fraught process of forming a government in exile – Władysław Raczkiewicz, successor to President Ignacy Mościcki interned in Romania, tasks General Władysław Sikorski with forming a government. It is duly sworn in, in allied Paris, on 1 October. Part of its programme is to set up and monitor institutions assisting soldiers and civilians – including those in the field of education. For Polish academics, the priority is to set up schools of higher education, enabling those thwarted by war and the September defeat to continue or commence their studies.

The founding professors have a further goal, or rather mission: to ensure that no foreign oppression should destroy the free Polish sciences and humanities or disrupt the independent Polish higher education system painstakingly restored after the Partitions and World War I. The first steps had already been taken by the end of September, mainly on the initiative of the eminent historian Professor Oskar Halecki, first rector of the Polish University Abroad, and later for many years pro-rector of PUNO. In November an Organisational Committee was set up at the Polish Library in Paris, bringing together academics from different universities and regions of Poland. The Committee's plans for the university are approved by the Polish and French governments, and on 1 December, also in the Polish Library in Paris, the inaugural meeting of the Polish University Abroad takes place. The meeting is chaired by the rector of the University of Paris, Professor Gustave Roussy; the Polish authorities are represented by Władysław Sikorski, Prime Minister and Chief of Armed Forces. Financial patronage is the responsibility of the National Culture Fund, set up by the Council of Ministers in October 1939. But the university's work comes to an end within less than two semesters.

On 14 June 1940 Paris falls to the Germans. That same day, the Polish President and government leave their French residence in Angers. By 21 June the evacuation of Poles from French territory has been completed. France capitulates on 22 June. The President and government of Poland move to England on the invitation of the British government and Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The staff of the University also leave for Great Britain; some 30,000 soldiers and officers make it to the British Isles, along with groups of refugees.

When the Polish government holds its first meeting in London on 26 June 1940, Poland is a valued partner for the Western Allies. What does this mean for Polish higher education? The years 1941-1944 see the foundation of Polish departments in Scottish and English universities: Medicine at the University of Edinburgh, Higher Pedagogical Studies and a Veterinary Department at the Royal Veterinary College, also in Edinburgh; Architecture at the University of Liverpool; Law – the last to be set up, in 1944 – at the University of Oxford. For Poles it is obvious that soldiers and refugees should be educated, in the profound belief that they will return to restore a free and just homeland.

History, however, is not on Poland's side. On 6 July 1945, even before the opening on 17 July of the Potsdam conference, at which the Interim Government of National Unity in Warsaw is fully recognised by the Allies, the British government withdraws its recognition of the Polish Government in Exile.

It is now in Britain's interest that the demobilised soldiers and Polish refugees return to their country. The Polish departments at British universities are closed down one by one. Admittedly, a new one is formed in 1947 – Polish University College, within the University of London – but its remit is now different: 'To prepare members of the Polish Armed Forces in the West who have remained as émigrés for skilled work'. PUC is closed down in 1953.

At the same time, work is in progress on forming an independent Polish university abroad. It is driven by the same idea of educating former soldiers, their families, and refugees; the same teachers but a different reality – a reality that is, for some, as traumatic as the war years. On 9 December 1948 the Interim Council of the University votes in the 'Organisational Statute' of PUNO – an establishment of higher education that



can constitute 'not only educationally, but also politically, an element of the [Polish] state abroad'.

After a series of decrees by the President of the Polish Republic in 1941, 1944, 1945, regulating Polish higher education in the British Isles, an institution by the name of PUNO is granted, by a presidential decree of 15 December 1952, full rights as a private academic school, in accordance with Poland's Academic Schools Act of 15 May 1933.

The smallest Polish university duly begins its formally authorised activity. There are three departments: Humanities; Law and Social Sciences; and, in due course, Technical Sciences, following the 1962 merger with PUNO of the Academic Council of Technical Schools, known as RAST, which was authorised as a Polish polytechnic by a presidential decree of 7 March 1944.

PUNO is to serve the independence-seeking diaspora spread over many countries and several continents – Britain, France, Germany, Switzerland, but also the USA, Canada, South America and Australia. Students and graduates, dispersed around the world – not least in Chicago, where there is a subsidiary from the end of the 1970s to the early 1990s, later to become the Polish Institute of Science and Culture in Chicago – are not numerous, while their individual goals and motivations for studying in Polish and beyond Polish borders are very diverse.

A remarkable role in PUNO's history is played by the Department of Fine Arts, functioning in Germany from 1982 to 2013. Known as the *Academia Polona Artium* in Munich, it is run by Professor Leon Jończyk – painter, graphic artist, theoretician and historian of art. It educated around 2000 artists, of 36 different nationalities, proving the old adage that the language of art is universal.

Waves of students from Poland also arrive in PUNO – to the rhythm of historical events: in the years 1956, 1968, 1980, and 1981-83.

The year is now 1989 – Communism collapses in Poland, and with it a discredited regime that loathed and slandered PUNO, and for many years erased it from the history of Polish higher education. This marks the inception of PUNO's most recent history, by no means trouble-free, as relations are established with a now sovereign homeland. On 6 February 1998 the Polish government passes a decree – 'on the recognition of academic degrees, diplomas and professional qualifications awarded by the Polish University Abroad' from 1 September 1952 to 22 December 1990 – stating these to be equivalent to those awarded in higher education in Poland. After this unprecedented display of good will, however, PUNO is left to its own devices.

Today, we are just passing a landmark quarter-century of the new Poland; PUNO is gradually being recognised in the annals of Polish education outside Poland. There have been articles, dissertations and books, and symposia such as the one in Cracow on 2 December 2011, organised by the Jagiellonian University in collaboration with PUNO, entitled 'Knights of Freedom, PUNO and Polish academics in Great Britain', or 'Philosophy at the Polish University Abroad' on 30 November 2012 at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. The latter has spawned a book of the same title, on the initiative of Professor Artur Andrzejuk, dedicated, like the conference itself, to the rector of PUNO in 2002-2011, Professor Wojciech Falkowski – who was, on behalf of the University – signatory of agreements on collaboration with both of these universities in Poland.

PUNO itself housed, from 2002 onwards, a unit researching the Second Independence-seeking Emigration of 1939-1989, under the supervision of Professor Bolesław Indyk. In 2010 its name was changed to the Polish Emigration Research Unit, and it was headed by Dr Joanna Pyłat until June 2014. In the new century we organised or co-organised eleven conferences on émigré topics, three of them in close cooperation with the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cracow, which acted as host institution. The last of these conferences concerned 'The young Polish emigration in the EU as a subject of psychological, sociological and cultural study: EuroEmigrants.PL'. Taking place in September 2013, and supported by a grant from the Polish Foreign Ministry, it reported on the latest research into the present condition of the Polish diaspora in the UK and other EU countries. The Academy went on to publish conference-related books.

PUNO researchers have also been publishing work related to their university and its academic staff: this includes books and articles by Dr Joanna Pyłat on the history of PUNO, and biographical work by Professor Zdzisław Judycki and the Polish Diaspora Biography Unit. This unit, based in France, was in 1995 incorporated into PUNO's Department of Humanities and has been involved in a wide range of research and documentation regarding the lives and achievements of eminent Poles living beyond their country's borders.

There are also a number of texts by PUNO's youngest members – assistants and Ph.D. students. I would like to mention here the doctoral thesis of Żaneta Steffek, MA, since it concerns 'Universitas', a quarterly published by the Society of Friends of PUNO between 1980 and 2001.





Its co-creator and long-time editor was Professor Andrzej Żaki, an eminent archaeologist, who today receives his honorary doctorate from our university. You will hear about the Professor and the Society in his commendation today. I would like to extend my warmest thanks to the Society of Friends of PUNO, active for decades in Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Germany, the U.S.A. and Great Britain, without whose help PUNO could not have continued its work and, in the past, overcome critical problems of funding.

## THE PRESENT

Today, in the second decade of the 21st century, there is a young, transformed Polish University Abroad, whose mission and ethos are a continuation of the former PUNO. Its main goal has been clearly articulated: 'to serve Poles of all generations, who, residing outside the borders of their country or the country of their forebears, wish to broaden their knowledge, continue their academic studies in the Polish language and maintain contact with Polish science, culture and language – with Polishness'.

But the young PUNO has other tasks, no less important: to support the youngest emigration, or EU migration, offering it the acquisition of academic knowledge and practical education – so that students may gain skills to assist them in finding work and operating successfully in their new environment. In the multicultural and multinational communities of present-day Europe, in which thousands of Polish children are born and mixed marriages are on the increase, there are constant processes of acculturation and inculturation, while traditional patriotism is gradually losing its strength and attraction. A further task is to act as a constant reminder – through education – that a person is the poorer for not knowing his or her own roots and the culture of his or her forebears. Last, there is a duty to nurture Polish culture, and highlight its contribution to both the heritage and the present day of the multicultural European community.

## REPORT

As is customary at the inauguration of the academic year, today combined with the celebration of our 75th anniversary, it is my duty to report on the major achievements of the past year and to present selective elements of our teaching and research programme for 2014/15.

The academic year 2013/14 saw the fourth edition of the one-year Post-Graduate Course in 'Applied psychology – basic methods and techniques in émigré conditions' and the close of the first two-year Post-Graduate Course in Social Sexology (350 hours of lectures, seminars and workshops).

Students also received diplomas in 'Mediation and Negotiation', following a second edition of this post-graduate course on arbitration, companies and social organisations, run in conjunction with Poland's 'Atena' Centre of Development of Personnel (150 hours of lectures and seminars).

The current year offers post-graduate studies in applied psychology, social sexology (2nd edition) and Mediation and Negotiation (3rd edition). We are also embarking on a new course in Coaching, aimed at producing a pool of experts who will help professionals in a range of fields to attain success in their work and personal lives. It will be run by the Applied Psychology Unit, which will also, in conjunction with the Teaching in the Polish Diaspora Unit, continue to run courses for teachers. In charge of the activities of the Applied Psychology Unit is the Deputy Director of PUNO's Institute of European Culture, Grażyna Czubińska, MA. We are also planning to set up an 'Émigré Pedagogical and Psychological Advisory Centre'.

The last academic year saw the close of a three year programme of teaching cooperation with the Jagiellonian University, Cracow (UJ). This comprised three editions of post-graduate courses on 'The Polish-British strategic partnership in the EU and NATO', the syllabus of which was planned by the UJ's Department of International and Political Studies under the dean, Professor Bogdan Szlachta. They were directed by Professor Andrzej Rzegocki; their second and third editions were supported by funding from the Foreign Ministry as part of the so-called PON UJ project.

Finally, very important as regards the Polish community, was the post-graduate qualification in 'Teaching Polish language and culture as secondary'. It was directed by a world authority in this field – Professor Władysław Miodunka, head of the UJ's Centre for Teaching Polish Language in the World' – and implemented by that university's Department of Polish Philology. On PUNO's part, it was run by the Teaching in the Polish Diaspora Unit. The UJ chose not to continue the collaboration; the programme will now be run by PUNO under the slightly amended name of 'Teaching Polish language and culture outside Poland', in conjunction with the Polish Educational Society in London, and with teaching support from Łódź University. It will commence at the start of the second semester – in February 2015. We very warmly invite you to attend; our participants will be working in a small group, under the tutelage of experienced teachers.





.We can assure you that in academic and practical teaching value it will match the standard of the previous two editions.

As for the Institute of Technical Sciences, headed by Professor Stefan Stańczyk, its main task in the coming year is the organisation of post-graduate technical studies in collaboration with Cracow Polytechnic and The Association of Polish Engineers in Great Britain, with a view to setting up PUNO's third Ph.D. course in this field.

For PUNO, cooperation with universities in Poland is of paramount importance. First, we can draw on the knowledge, academic achievements and experience of scholars at leading Polish universities. Second, it enables us to issue double diplomas and degrees. This is of particular relevance to young Polish migrants who are contemplating a return to their country and wish to have their qualifications recognised by the authorities there.

In addition to cooperation with five universities in Poland, which has been formalised by memoranda and agreements, PUNO draws on the assistance of academics with whose institutions it has no binding agreements. For seven years now, the involvement of eminent professors from Poland, and their guidance and tutelage, has facilitated the running of our university's Ph.D. seminars in the humanities and social sciences.

Furthermore, among the professors and doctors based in Poland there are those who take part in our research, and also – for token remuneration – in our teaching programmes.

Numerous Polish academics support PUNO lecturers with occasional lectures at the University of the Third Age and on the Polish Culture Course, the origins of which date back to 1953. Since 2007 this course has been offered free to anyone wishing to stay in touch with Polish learning, history and culture – its past and present. Earlier, it had been a fixed component of Bachelor or Master's level studies; today its syllabus changes every few years. In the year before last we had lectures in literature, art, philosophy, psychology, sociology, political thought and diplomacy under the collective name 'Poland in the Twenty-First Century'; last year's programme – as decided by Professor Alicja Moskalowa, Dean of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences – saw a return to Polish history and culture from the Piast dynasty to the end of the 19th century. The coming academic year will deal with Poland during the Partitions. All are warmly invited!

You are also very welcome to attend the free Literary Workshops run by Professor Ewa Lewandowska-Tarasiuk, head of PUNO's Contemporary Literary and Artistic Culture Unit, and editor of the poetry anthology 'My joy in writing. Verses from the Thames and the Vistula' (2009). Published in Warsaw by Wiedza Powszechna, it is a collection of works by participants in the London and Warsaw Workshops. The unusual poetic dialogue between various generations of Poles living both in the homeland and abroad also becomes a dialogue of cultures – of the native country, and the émigrés. This conversation will extend into the Literary Workshops planned in PUNO for this year along with the second joint publication, 'The narratives are within us...'. Taking part will be students from the University of the Third Age of the Higher School of Economics ALMAMER in Warsaw, and from PUNO's University of the Third Age and Others – established six years ago, with token fees and a small, but committed group.

It is somewhat awkward for me to talk of financial issues at a 75th anniversary, but we keep being asked the same question: how is PUNO funded? The answer is as brief as the question: by voluntary work, and pleading for money. Or in other words – from the dedicated, disinterested work of three generations of scholars – from our senior academics aged over 80 to our young academics of 30 or less. None of the team running the university from the rectors down to the deputy heads of the research and teaching units – nine in all – is remunerated for his or her work. As for pleading for money, it stems from one of the most noble manifestations of civic life of the Polish emigration: a readiness to share the proverbial widow's mite, and to create foundations to support Polish learning and culture abroad.

Patronage by individuals and foundations means we can organise conferences, publish books, and celebrate inaugurations such as today's jubilee. What we are unable to do is to educate and keep at our university a younger and middle generation of scholars wishing to serve Polish learning and higher education outside the borders of the mother country, since we lack the financial resources to pay their salaries. And this is the answer to the question why PUNO does not have its own young professors, and why this in turn condemns us to non-existence and exclusion from the registers of Polish educational institutions. Deeply convinced that what we do is important and useful, both for Poles beyond the borders and for Poland itself, we have requested that the government authorities and institutions recognise us and support our work as a statutory institution – unfortunately, to no avail.



It needs to be added that, contrary to repeated rumours, Polish higher education institutes give no financial support to PUNO, and – despite allegations in the Polish press – no institution in Poland has shared its government funding with our university.

In the area of cooperation with British scholars, the most significant initiative of the past year has been Professor Michael Fleming's creation at PUNO of a centre of studies in 20th century Polish history. The Polish Twentieth Century History Seminar is conducted solely in English, and provides a forum for discussion dedicated to the latest research and publications by British academics on the subject. There have been contributions from eminent participants from Oxford University, the London School of Economics, University College London, the University of East Anglia and PUNO. We hope that these annual seminars will not only constitute a discussion forum for British and Polish scholars, but will also be of use to the youngest generation, including Ph.D. and Master's students, who wish to extend their knowledge of Poland's recent history.

Collaboration with British universities also takes place by way of conference projects, in particular through the participation of young academics of Polish extraction employed at British institutions.

Of the dozens of conferences organised and participated in by members of PUNO, one particularly worthy of mention is that of 11-12 April 2014, on Polish education in the two Americas and Australia. It was the final stage of PUNO's three-year research project, Polish education beyond the borders of the Republic, post 1918. The first conference took place on 14 April 2012, under the auspices of the UJ and The Aleksander Gieysztor Academy of Humanities in Pułtusk, and was focused on Polish education in Great Britain and the Irish Republic 1939-2011; the second, discussing Polish education in Eastern-Central and Western Europe, took place on 13 April 2013. As with other PUNO conferences, participation was free, and open to all interested in the subject – in particular, teachers in Polish schools around the world.

PUNO's April Conferences, dedicated to the memory of the last President in Exile Ryszard Kaczorowski, are held annually on the second Saturday of April. The inaugural one, in 2011, organised with the UJ on the first anniversary of the Smolensk disaster, was on Presidents and Governments of the Republic in Exile in the struggle for an independent Poland in the years 1939-1990. A book based on the papers of the conference, Presidents and Governments of the Republic in Exile 1939-1990, selected issues from the Polish emigration, was published in 2013. You will find it today at the modest stand we have set up for our jubilee celebration.

We are currently carrying out thirty research projects; for the most part they are individual, for lack of funding. Last year, however, there were three team projects. One, at the behest of the Polish Embassy in London and directed by Dr Joanna Pyłat, was on the 'Image of Poland and Poles in British textbooks'. This resulted in a 400-page report, which will be a reference point for PUNO's next April conference, in 2015 - 'Images of Poland and Poles in British textbooks and media' – to which you are cordially invited. A second project, directed by Dr Katarzyna Zechenter, was the creation of a handbook for parents whose children do not attend Saturday schools, and also for families where only one parent speaks Polish and the common language is English.

The third team project, started last academic year and still running, concerns émigré charitable foundations that support Polish learning and culture, their founders, and selected projects that they helped realise. It was inaugurated in May 2014 with a PUNO symposium on the Hanna and Zdzisław Broncel Foundation. A publication – also a team effort – will mark this event in the current academic year, thanks to support by the Foundation.

Numerous publications can testify to the usefulness of our conferences and projects, not least those by members of the academic staff of PUNO. Five recent titles, from 2014, represent five of our research units:

Auschwitz, the Allies and Censorship of the Holocaust, Cambridge University Press, Michael Fleming, head of the Contemporary British Culture Unit and convener of the Polish Twentieth Century History Seminar.

The limits of direct democracy. The influence of the Swiss political system on the process of integration of the Muslim minority. Poligraf, Mirosław Matyja, National Minority Cultures Unit, PUNO.

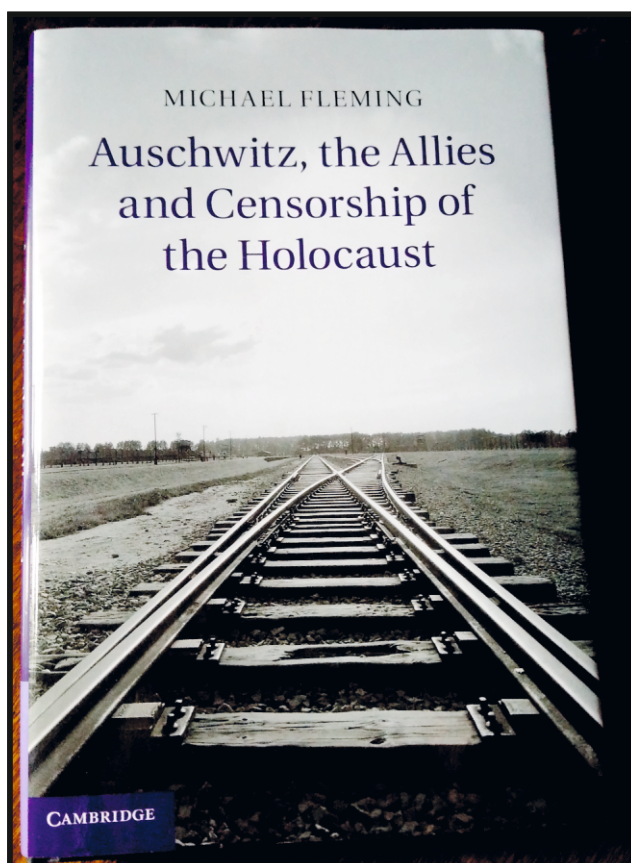
The city that did not die. The civilian population of Warsaw 1939-1944 and its memorials. Bellona, Professor Halina Taborska, director of the Institute of European Culture, PUNO. Technology and Science – elite periodical of the Association of Polish Technicians in Great Britain. Ready for print. Professor Jolanta Chwastyk-Kowalczyk, head of the History of Technology Unit in the Institute of Technical Sciences, PUNO.

May we also commend to your attention this year's edition of the PUNO Scientific Papers, just published by Wydawnictwo Jasne, with the aim of presenting – of necessity, in very limited scope – the highly diversified fields of study of PUNO over three generations, from seniors to Ph.D. students. The publication includes an innovative project for the management of the land and office space of a savings bank in Gdynia, by Włodzimierz Bronic-Czerechowski, head of the Architectural Research and Design Unit in PUNO's Institute of Technical Sciences.



**The first edition of postgraduate studies at the Jagiellonian University - PUNO:  
Teaching Polish Language and Culture as the Second, London, 2013.**

11



**Publications of academic staff PUNO**



Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Grzegorz Schetyna

Warsaw, 17 October 2014

Your Magnificence,

I wish to express my pleasure, and to convey my sincere congratulations to the community of the Polish University Abroad, on the occasion of the 75th Jubilee inauguration of its academic year.

As a historian, I fully appreciate the importance of this institution and its formidable achievements. In the post-war years the Polish University Abroad was at the centre of much of the scholarly potential of London's émigré community. It was a forum of free discussion and exchange of views on the political situation in Poland and the prospects of regaining full sovereignty. For many years it ensured the nurturing of émigré scholarship potential, and the fostering of the unfettered expression of the aspirations of our nation.

The University's commitment to the intellectual development of its most able students enabled them to take up important posts in Great Britain's academia. Also worth noting is the deeply patriotic stance of its teachers and students. This tradition has singular significance in the light of Poland's accession to the European Union, when many Poles chose to settle in the British Isles.

May I convey to Madam Rector Professor Dr hab. Halina Taborska expressions of gratitude for the heritage of the entire community revolving around the University, and express wishes of many further successes in the field of educating Poles abroad.

**Her Magnificence**  
**Professor Dr hab. Halina Taborska**  
**Rector, the Polish University Abroad**  
**London**



**EUROPEJSKA UNIA WSPÓLNOT POLONIJNYCH**  
**UNION OF POLISH COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE**  
**UNION EUROPÉENNE DES COMMUNAUTÉS POLONAISES**  
**EUROPÄISCHE UNION DER POLNISCHEN GEMEINSCHAFTEN**

**BIURO PREZYDENTA :**

e-mail: [hmiziniak@googlemail.com](mailto:hmiziniak@googlemail.com)

21 A Cumberland Road \* Bromley BR2 0PQ \* GREAT BRITAIN

cell: +44 797 184 04 99

**London, September 23, 2014**

**Professor Dr hab. Halina Taborska**  
**Rector,**  
**The Polish University Abroad**

**Esteemed Madam Rector,**

The Union of Polish Communities in Europe and the Association of Polish Women in Great Britain take pleasure in joining the wide throng of friends and supporters of the Polish University Abroad (PUNO) and congratulating it on its 75th anniversary. This is an opportunity to contemplate the achievements, and also the transformations, to which we have been witness.

PUNO was and will remain a significant part of our Polish community life. Its altruistic work has served three generations of Poles from various emigrations, each of which was, irrespective of its cause, a painful exercise.

By conducting, for decades, a programme on Polish culture, it not only disseminated it beyond the country's borders but also fostered émigré culture. Its doors were always open to all who wanted to benefit from it. And its far-ranging educational activity contributed to protecting the nation's heritage.

On the occasion of your Great 75th Anniversary Jubilee I wish to express, on behalf of myself and of the institutions I preside over, gratitude and respect for all the Rectors, Deans and Professors who over the years furthered the development of scholarship outside the homeland, and of scholarship and culture in Great Britain.

I wish you continuing fruitful and successful work in the future, as well as equally splendid jubilees.

Respectfully yours

Helena Miziniak  
President, UPCE



# POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

1612 K Street, NW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20006-2802  
Tel.: (202) 296-6955 ♦ Fax: (202) 835-1565 ♦ E-mail: [pacwash@pac1944.org](mailto:pacwash@pac1944.org)  
[WWW.PAC1944.ORG](http://WWW.PAC1944.ORG)

7 October 2014

Professor Dr hab. Halina Taborska  
Rector of the Polish University Abroad  
238-246 King Street, London W6 0RF  
United Kingdom

Esteemed Madam Rector,

On behalf of the Polish American Congress and myself I have the honour to convey to you my expressions of respect and congratulations on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Polish University Abroad.

The creation of this worthy institution in 1939 contributed, in fulfilling the mission of its founders, to the preservation of continuity in Polish higher education during wartime occupation, and to maintaining the national identity of Poles obliged by events to live outside their homeland.

Thanks to the relentless work and commitment of its successive governing bodies, its workers and collaborators, the Polish University Abroad remains to this day a mainstay of the national spirit and an important centre of research and teaching.

I hope and fervently wish that successive generations of Poles residing abroad will in future decades be able to continue studying in the Polish language, expanding their knowledge and maintaining constant links with Polish learning and culture.

Once again, my congratulations on the 75th Jubilee, and may you have many successes in the future.

With expressions of deep respect,

Frank J. Spula  
President

---

## **The Rector: Close of the Jubilee Ceremony**

### **PUNO 75**

Ladies and gentlemen, we have prepared for you a modest souvenir – a Jubilee brochure. Its content is self-explanatory, though you may be surprised to find an insert with four poems. For decades, humanities scholars at PUNO studied, researched and lectured on Polish literature, including poetry, for which many of us had a special affection. That is why we wished to remind you of four poets with particularly strong links to our university, who passed away in this century: Professor Józef Bujnowski, who died in 2001 – participant of the campaign of September 1939, incarcerated by the Soviets in Yukhnov by Kaluga, then prisoner of the NKVD in Lukiškės Prison in Vilnius, and Solovki prison in Gorky, eventually a soldier with the Anders Army, participant in the Italian campaign, and in the years 1952-2001 lecturer, the Chair of Polish Literature, dean of the Department of Humanities at PUNO; Professor Mieczysław Paszkiewicz, who died in 2004, dean of the Department of Humanities in 1993-2004, historian of art, scholar of literature, prisoner of the German camps in Auschwitz and Mauthausen-Gusen.

In this century honorary doctorates were awarded by PUNO to two poets. Krystyna Bednarczyk was co-founder with her husband Czesław of an excellent émigré publishing house known as the 'Poets' and Painters' Press' (they published over 1000 volumes), and also of the London literary quarterly 'Poets' Press' which came out over several decades. During the war and occupation Krystyna was a soldier of the Home Army, from Poland she managed to get to Italy, to the Second Corps of General Anders. She received her honorary doctorate in 2008, and died in 2011.

In 2007 the recipient of PUNO's honorary doctorate was Bolesław Taborski, who died in 2010. During the war he was a teenage soldier in the Home Army and took part in the Warsaw Uprising. In peacetime he was a poet, theatre scholar, for many years a journalist in the Polish section of the BBC, and a translator. Among others, he wrote about and translated into English the poetical dramas of Karol Wojtyła – John Paul II, Polish Pope and Saint.

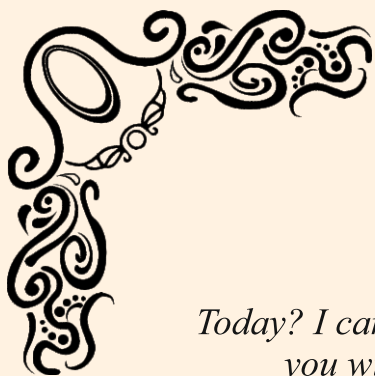
The four lives recalled here are characteristic of the people who shaped PUNO or were its close friends – together creating free Polish scholarship and culture outside Poland. Four of their poems included here speak of the fighting years, of building a new life in a foreign land, of the life-long burden of war memories, and also of happiness found in a loving relationship.

**We commend them to your memory.**



**Polish Social and Cultural Association in London**  
**Head Office of PUNO from 1976.**

---



*Józef Bujnowski (1910 – 2001)*

*From a distance*

*Today? I can't be sure. But in these yellowing papers one day  
you will discover our life, caught as it sped away.*

*Not at a natural pace, but to the rhythm of tank-tracks and diesel,  
thoughts grasping at Heaven in the storm and stampede of battle.*

*They'll tell you, 'Heroism woven into history's wiles...'  
but perhaps it was mostly hatred...but above hatred...love.*

*And perhaps amidst it all, as these young hearts beat faster,  
there was a longing for a tempest, a thirst for a great adventure.*

*I know we shall drift into legend. The hands of Eternity, so white!  
And yet life could have been simpler, and yet life could have been brighter.*

*So do not judge: in the swirl of the skirmish or slumped in the bivouac  
how can sleep slake the heart's thirst, how can one drive the visions back?*

*Day after day it went, day after day anew,  
nostalgia gripped us tight, tore at the nerve tissue.*

*Often exhaustion lay so heavy upon the chest  
that we longed for the white, calm hand of death –*

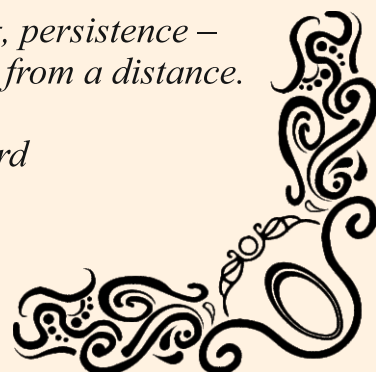
*and wished we could forget, whistle at the world, at the human face,  
and withdraw to some serene and solitary place.*

*But then we'd go back into the wind, return into the storm,  
back to where we began, every event reborn.*

*And all through the fatal power of those September memories  
when we bid farewell to silence, watching the burning birch trees.*

*Which is why we keep walking, endlessly walking, persistence –  
until sunlit birch trees appear to us faintly, rustling from a distance.*

*Translated by Basia and Tony Howard  
From: "Brzozom w płomieniach"  
("To birch trees in flames"), 1945*



***My generation***

*My school of life  
My generation  
my teachers  
I remember you all  
[.....]*

*Now a crowd of teachers  
came  
learning became complex  
the school of fear  
the school of goodness and togetherness  
the school of hate for the enemy  
the school in which  
sixteen year-old boys  
carried to SS men  
the nails of their own crucifixion  
with a smile*

*They fought for top marks  
they received  
their final grades  
in burning Warsaw.*

*For our country  
fate threw us  
like so much grain  
into the world*

*into a time  
of washing dishes  
in hotel kitchens  
of packing English cakes  
into boxes  
of work in sweatshops  
of work in mines  
of work in hospitals  
for the insane*

*We had to be together we two  
forget the dreams  
of a first ball  
of a wedding veil  
and sign a paper  
in a registrar's office  
and build a home  
in one room  
with a basin and a stove.*

*Time was painting  
our hair white.  
[.....]*

*Translated by Magda Czajkowska  
From: "Obmowy świtów"  
("Slander of the Dawn") 1978*



*Bolesław Taborski (1927-2010)*

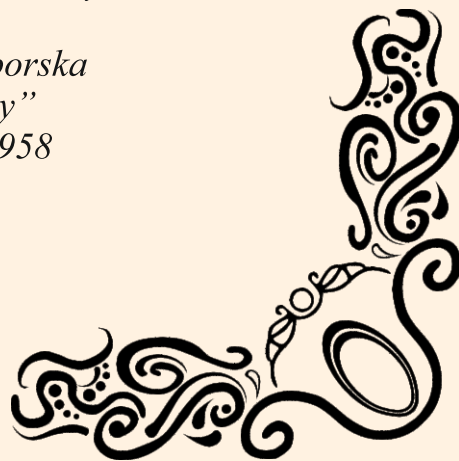
*To the thousandth power*

*handless invalids of the century  
we survived the terror of war and peace  
on crutches we drag our injured souls  
time pours salt onto our wounds  
so they can bleed with fresh grief still*

*we have walked through houseless streets  
and forests disemboweled of trees –  
we saw meadows without grass  
and drunks accosting holy men  
we drained every poison to the dregs  
and probes sapped all venom from us –  
we wept at someone else's funeral  
with eyes emptied of pupils and of tears  
bent over the gutters of hope  
we searched for the sodden stubs of dreams*

*we walk the road that leads to nowhere  
we hemorrhage the blood of damaged hearts  
we walk as a thousand bodies and shadows  
but every one of us is lonely  
to the marrow of fractured bones  
not one of us can help another  
we have no hands to hold out to our brothers  
we merely shake our mute stumps  
handless invalids of the century*

*Translated by Anna Taborska  
From: "Ziarna nocy"  
("Seeds of night"), 1958*





*Mieczysław Paszkiewicz (1922- 2004)*

*Happiness*

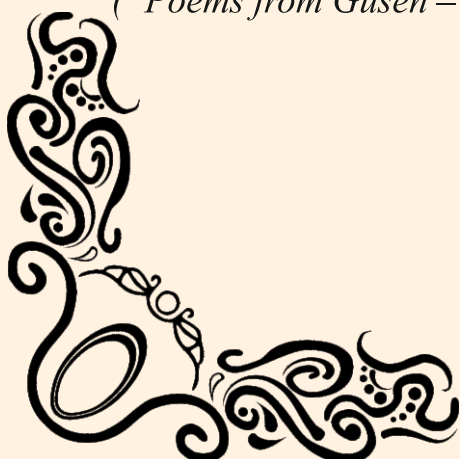
*Everyone in life does something different  
one creates another destroys  
and sometimes someone silently and secretly  
cultivates love like a rose*

*And everyone's aims in life are different  
for one it's light, for another darkness  
yet for each a day outside the window spreads  
into an eternity strange and mysterious*

*Happiness at times, bitterness and care  
at times it's the silence of a summer's orchard  
when dusk smoothes layers of warm scents  
on flowers and fresh molehills*

*And if one holds with both hands  
a body firm like a sun-ripe fruit  
that too is happiness and there is no other  
and to look for it would simply be pointless  
11.1.1945*

*Translated by Magda Czajkowska  
From: "Wiersze z Gusen – pegaz w obozie zagłady"  
("Poems from Gusen – Pegasus in an extermination camp"), 2007*



---

**The Rector:**

**And now, our sincere thanks**

On behalf of all who work for the Polish University Abroad, of the Senate, and myself, I warmly thank all of you for wishing to be with us today. Thank you to our Honorary Patrons, and to the sponsors and media who joined us today. I wish also to extend my most sincere thanks to all the organisers of today's event, the administrative staff of PUNO, the Director of Development, Roman Mazur, the Scholarly Association of Students and Graduates of PUNO, and to also all the students who oversaw the efficient running of our ceremony.

We shall have a ten-minute interval, after which, having closed the formal part of our ceremony, we invite you to a half hour concert of the excellent Schola Gregoriana choir conducted by Grzegorz Salamoński. After the concert, you are invited for canapés and conversation at the Łowiczanka restaurant.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

**20**

**1939**



**2014**





**The Polish Embassy in London. Graduates of the 1st edition of postgraduate studies Polish-British partnership in the EU and NATO its efforts together with the Jagiellonian University, 2012.**



**The participants of the April Conference: "Education Polish in Western Europe and Central and Eastern Europe", 2013.**

## Our Sponsors, to whom we extend our heartfelt thanks:

- \* The Polish Embassy and Consulate in London
- \* Foundation of the Polish Ex-Combatants Association
- \* De Brzezic Lanckoronski Foundation
- \* Polonia Aid Foundation Trust
- \* The Hanna & Zdzislaw Broncel Charitable Trust
- \* The M.B. Grabowski Foundation
- \* The Polish Social and Cultural Association – POSK
- \* Mrs Janina Janczewska and Mr Józef Janczewski
- \* Mrs Krystyna Muraszko
- \* Mrs Irena Delmar-Czarnecka
- \* Mr Grzegorz Stachurski
- \* Mr Jan Kapanowski
- \* 60 donors who responded to PUNO's appeal for financial support

*“My Commune” (title added later)*

*So that words would not be  
like blood on the pavement  
- bitter and nobody's  
so as not to long and not to seek  
not to destroy and not to kill*

*So that the taste of regret be wiped off lips  
and the joy of creativity be given to hands  
return us and allow us to burn  
but only for essence and beauty*

6.VIII.44

*Mieczysław Paszkiewicz  
(translated by Magda Czajkowska)*

[www.puno.edu.pl](http://www.puno.edu.pl)

London - PUNO 2014

