

Bulletin of the Józef Piłsudski Institute

No 4/2021, April 2021

Information

Please be advised that on March 27 2021 the Annual Piłsudski Institute Board of Directors meeting took place. During the Meeting the Institute's Executive Committee has been elected for a one-year term.

Dr. Iwona Dąg Korga - President and Executive Director

Dr. Ewa Hoffman-Jędruch and Dr. Artur Kowalski - Vice Presidents

Piotr Kumelowski - Treasurer

Dr Jacek Czarnecki - Secretary of the Board.

In April, we will invite you to film screenings. The films will be made available on the internet platform, and after watching them, we will invite you to a virtual meeting with their author, Tomasz Magierski. Therefore, please follow our website and our Facebook profile, where we will post all the information soon.

Events

On March 13, as part of our "Meetings with history" series, the lecture by prof. Marcin Kruszyński - "About the fathers of independence from the shadow of great politics and the life and activity of General Gustaw Orlicz-Dreszer" took place. Prof. M. Kruszyński is a lecturer at the Military Aviation Academy in Dęblin, as well as an employee of the Historical Research Office of the Institute of National Remembrance. During the meeting, prof. Kruszyński introduced the figure of General Gustaw Orlicz-Dreszer (1889-1936), one of the most important people in the group of collaborators of Marshal Józef Piłsudski.

The lecture is available on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CyDgDbStQiw>

On March 21, a meeting was held via communicator Zoom organized by the Polish Historical Club Austin Polish Society and was chaired by Joanna Sokołowska-Gwizdka, vice-president of Austin Polish Society and editor-in-chief of Culture Avenue magazine. The guests were Dr. Iwona Korga and Mr. Tomasz Jędrzejewicz, and son of the founder of the Institute, prof. Waław Jędrzejewicz. The topics concerned the history and activities of the Institute as well as the father-son relationship.

On March 24, Dr. Iwona Korga met with sixth grade students from the MS 577 public school in Brooklyn. The meeting, initiated by the teacher of the same school, Katarzyna Wojtowicz, was held via the communicator Zoom and gathered almost one hundred students who listened with interest to the lecture on the history and collections of the Piłsudski Institute.

On March 30, we published a video about spring customs and Easter traditions. This presentation is our proposition for younger viewers who, due to the pandemic, we were unable to invite to the traditional pre-Christmas workshop at the Institute. The film is available on our YouTube channel and on our FB profile.

<https://youtu.be/wtZ8CVnngjQ>

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank for the generous donations made in March by Dr. George S. Bobinski and Mr. Roman Dyba.

In Memoriam

On March 7, 2021, Dr. Tomasz Księżyk died suddenly in Gdańsk at the age of 70. For a long time he was associated with the Piłsudski Institute in America, where he was a member of the Board of Directors in 1986-1989. The matters of Poland and Poles were always important to him.

He grew up in Częstochowa. He went to study in Dresden, and then lived in Warsaw. He came to New York in 1981 hoping for more opportunities for research in the newly emerging field of artificial intelligence. In 1988 he defended his PhD in computer science from New York University. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Austin, Texas, where his wife and daughters could finally join him. Dr. Tomasz Księżyk lived in Austin until 2016, after which he returned to Poland to spend his retirement. He was a collector of books, especially those about history and art. He appreciated the possibility of interweaving intense work on technical problems with deepening his humanistic interests.

Honor his memory.

On April 1, 2021, Antoni Chrościelewski, the commander of the 2nd District of the Polish Army Veterans Association in America, died at the age of 97. He was a long-time member of the Piłsudski Institute. In April 1940, together with his mother and sisters, he was transported from his native home Augustów to Siberia, then to northern Kazakhstan, where he spent 2 years. Upon hearing that General Anders was forming the Polish Armed Forces in the USSR, he joined the Polish. He went through the entire training and combat route of the 2nd Polish Corps, including one of the greatest battles of the Second World War - the Battle of Monte Cassino. He spent several years in London working in the factory of the French company Renault. In the 1950s, after arriving in New York, he worked in an American company gaining knowledge and experience, which allowed him to open his own business. Thanks to his success in the United States, he was able to devote himself tirelessly over the past several decades to be active in Polonia. In 1980 he became the President of the Polish National House in Greenpoint, he was also associated with the Polish Army Veterans Association in America. For his military merits, Mr. A. Chrościelewski received many orders and decorations including the Commander's Cross with the Star of the Order of Polonia Restituta, which was presented to him on September 30, 2020 by Consul General of RP in NY -Adrian Kubicki.

We express our sincere condolences to our family and friends.

Honor his memory.

Quiz

Question from the previous newsletter:

On March 17, 1921, the Legislative Sejm of Poland passed the March Constitution. It was the first modern Polish constitution which, although formally in force as early as June 1, 1921, entered into full force only after the parliamentary elections and the subsequent presidential elections in 1922.

On the centenary (one hundred anniversary) of signing the March constitution, we want to ask who was the first president elected on the basis of the provisions of that constitution?

It was, of course, about Gabriel Narutowicz. Thank you for all your responses.

The award goes to Mr. Dominik Biaduń from Szydłowiec. Congratulations.

New question:

At the turn of March and April 1909, Józef Piłsudski was on vacation with his wife Maria. The trip was to repair the health of "Ziuk", damaged during the operation at Bezdany, where several months earlier (September 1908), PPS fighters made a daring attack on a train carrying taxes collected throughout the Vilnius region to St. Petersburg.

We ask where the Piłsudskis spent this vacation?

Note: When sending a response, please give an address so we can mail the prize. Among the correct answers we will draw one prize.

The Józef Piłsudski Institute of America is an independent historical institute, one of the largest Polish archives outside the country, with collections of documents, photographs, paintings, medals and other memorabilia, as well as a library. For more information visit our website www.Piłsudski.org.

You can [read past issues of the Bulletin](#) on the Institute website, where you can also request subscription.

If you want to help with the work of the Institute, become its [member or volunteer](#). The Institute is a non-profit organization supported by donations and bequests, and any help is appreciated. We urge you to donate to the Institute family memorabilia, correspondence and other archival collections. The Institute needs volunteers to assist in the activities, development of collections, digitization, queries, etc.

The Institute is open daily Monday to Friday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.



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