

The Sarmatian Review (ISSN 1059-5872) is a triannual publication of the Polish Institute of Houston. The journal deals with Polish, Central, and Eastern European affairs, and it explores their implications for the United States. We specialize in the translation of documents. *Sarmatian Review* is indexed in the American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies, EBSCO, and P.A.I.S. International Database. Since September 1997, files in PDF format are available at the Central and Eastern European Online Library (www.cceol.com).

Subscription price is \$21.00 per year for individuals, \$28.00 for institutions and libraries (\$28.00 for individuals, \$35.00 for libraries overseas, air mail). The views expressed by authors of articles do not necessarily represent those of the Editors or of the Polish Institute of Houston. Articles are subject to editing. Unsolicited manuscripts and other materials are not returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope. Please submit your contribution electronically and, if requested, send a printout by air mail. Submissions and Letters to the Editor can be e-mailed to <sarmatia@rice.edu>, with the accompanying mailing return address. Other letters and subscription queries should be emailed to <sarmatianreview@yahoo.com>.

Subscription checks should be mailed to *The Sarmatian Review*, P. O. Box 79119, Houston, Texas 77279-9119.

The Sarmatian Review retains the copyright for all materials included in print and online issues. Copies for personal or educational use are permitted by section 107 and 108 of the U.S. Copyright Law. Permission to redistribute, republish, or use SR materials in advertising or promotion must be submitted in writing to the Editor.

Editor: Ewa Thompson (Rice University).

Associate Editors: Tamara Trojanowska (University of Toronto), **Bogdan Czaykowski, 1932–2007** (University of British Columbia).

Editorial Advisory Committee: George Gasyna (University of Illinois-Urbana), Janusz A. Ihnatowicz (University of Saint Thomas-Houston), Bożena Karwowska (University of British Columbia), Joseph A. Kotarba (University of Houston), Alex Kurczaba (University of Illinois-Chicago), **Marcus D. Leuchter, 1909–2008** (Holocaust Museum Houston), Witold J. Lukaszewski (Sam Houston State University), Theresa Kurk McGinley (Lone Star College-North Harris), Michael J. Mikos (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Jan Rybicki (Kraków Pedagogical University), Dariusz Skórczewski (Catholic University of Lublin), Piotr Wilczek (University of Warsaw).

Copy Editor: Cyndy Brown

Web Pages: Lisa Spiro (Rice University), Kern Vijayvargiya (Rice University).

Web Address: <http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~sarmatia>.

Alternate Web Address: Central and East European Online Library (www.cceol.com), under Periodicals—United States—*Sarmatian Review*.

In this issue:

<i>Sarmatian Review</i> Data	1545
Richard J. Hunter, Jr. and Leo V. Ryan, C.S.V., Polish Election 2010: Possible Political and Economic Implications	1547
Joanna Rostropowicz Clark, <i>The Two Lives of Ludwik Gumpłowicz</i> (review)	1549
Agnieszka Gutthy, <i>The Intelligentsia, Empire, and Civilization in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries</i> (review)	1551
Katherine Jolluck, <i>The Ice Road: An Epic Journey from the Stalinist Labor Camps to Freedom</i> (review)	1552
Joanna Niżyńska, <i>Body. Gender. Concentration Camps</i> (review)	1553
Chad Heltzel, <i>Primeval and Other Times</i> (review)	1555
Raymond Gawronski, SJ, <i>A Postcard from the Volcano</i> (review)	1556
Paweł Styra, <i>Bulletin of the Institute of National Remembrance (Katyn)</i> , no. 4(111) (review)	1558
Adam R. Seipp, <i>303 Squadron: the Legendary Battle of Britain Fighter Squadron</i> (review)	1559
More BOOKS	1560
Adam Mickiewicz, <i>Pan Tadeusz</i> (Book Six), translated by Christopher A. Zakrzewski	1562
About the Authors	1569
Thank You Note	1570
Announcements & Notes	1570

OUR TAKE

Local Elections in Poland

On 20 November 2010, elections to local self-governments took place in Poland. Mayors, members of the local parliaments (*Sejmiki*), and councilmen were elected and often reelected. Good news: PO and PiS are still the largest parties, and this means that Poland is moving toward a two-party system. The postcommunist SLD and the curiously colorless PSL still get a two-digit support, but PSL is increasingly becoming a no-commitment party that one joins as the first step in one's career without

committing oneself to any program or views.

With less than half the eligible voters participating, there were no surprises. Overall, the Civic Platform (PO) won with 32 percent of the vote; Law and Justice (PiS) got 23 percent. For reasons that remain unclear, a large percentage of the ballots (3 million) were invalidated.

The elections were preceded by a political murder. On 19 October 2010 Marek Rosiak, aide to EU MP Janusz Wojciechowski (member of PiS), was murdered in the PiS office in Łódź. The assailant, Ryszard C., had a history of expressing his hatred of PiS and shouted anti-PiS invectives. He shot and killed Rosiak, then wounded Paweł Kowalski, an aide to PiS MP Jarosław Jagiełło, with a knife. The choice of victims seems to be accidental—what is not accidental is that the assailant chose the office of PiS and not that of any other party. Ryszard C. was arrested and is presently under psychiatric observation. Nothing like attributing a political murder to mental derangement—see a pertinent commentary in Polish at <<http://knappestoper.salon24.pl/242071,racjonalnosc-zbrodni-ryszarda-c>>. As the commentator noted, this incident doubtless persuaded some people to not vote for PiS—it might be dangerous to their health!

Bottom line: the elections did not bring change. PiS predictably lost; PO gained, but not significantly. The real fight will come in 2011 when elections to the Sejm will take place. ◇

