

with the sacraments— But now—who knows?—perhaps I have sinned again! Perhaps I exceeded orders in fomenting the uprising so soon? Yet the thought that the house of the Soplicas should be the first to take up arms, that my kinsmen should be the first to plant our heraldic Charger on Lithuanian soil—that thought—surely—was pure enough—

“You wanted revenge, Gerwazy? Well, you have it! For you have been the tool of God’s punishment. With your sword God cut my scheme to ribbons. You snarled the thread I had spun for so many years! My great goal of a lifetime, my last worldly passion, which I nursed and fondled as though it were my dearest child—this you have slain before its father’s eyes; and yet I forgive you! You—!”

“Even so may God forgive you too,” broke in Gerwazy. “Father Jacek, if you must take the house, then I am no Lutheran or schismatic. He sins who grieves a dying man; this I know. Now I shall tell you something; no doubt you will find it a consolation. When my late lord fell mortally wounded to the ground and I knelt over his breast, smearing my blade with his blood and vowing vengeance, he shook his head at me and, stretching his hand toward the gate where you stood, traced a cross in the air. He could not speak, but it was a clear sign he had forgiven his slayer. I understood what he meant, but so great was my rage that I never breathed a word of that sign of the cross to anyone.”

The dying man’s agonies broke off all further talk. There followed a long hour of silence. They waited for the village priest. At last they heard the clatter of hooves. There was a rap on the door. It was the tavern-keeper, breathless after his hard ride. He carried an important letter addressed to Jacek. Jacek passed it to his brother and had him read it aloud. The letter was from Fiszer, then Chief-of-Staff of the Polish Army under Prince Joseph. It brought news that a state of war had been declared in the Emperor’s Privy Council; that the Emperor was even now proclaiming it to the world; that a General Assembly had been summoned in Warsaw; and that the federated Mazovian States were about to make a solemn declaration of union with Lithuania.

Hearing this news, Jacek muttered a silent prayer; then holding the blessed candle to his bosom, he raised his eyes, now ablaze with hope, and lavishly spent his remaining reserve of tears,

“Now, O Lord,” he prayed, “let thy servant depart in peace.” They knelt down. A bell rang at the door, a sign that the parish priest had arrived with the Body of Our Lord. Night was just departing. The first roseate sunbeams traversed the milky sky. Like diamond darts, they pierced the lattice panes and, glancing off the dying man’s head on the pillow, wreathed his face and temples in gold, so that he shone like a saint crowned with a fiery glory. Δ

## LETTERS

In the September 2013 issue of *Sarmatian Review*, the reviewer of Richard Lukas’s book states on p. 1789 that the book under review is the only English-language work detailing the situation of Poles under German occupation. This is not true. In 1979 Jan T. Gross published *Polish Society Under German Occupation, 1939-1944* (Princeton University Press). On the same page, in the short review of Adam Zamoyski’s *Poland*, the reviewer mentioning Norman Davies’s *The Heart of Europe: The Past in Poland’s Present* fails to note that a second and updated edition of this book came out in 2001 from Oxford University Press.

Anna M. Cienciala, University of Kansas

## Announcements and Notes

### UWM ANNOUNCES SUMMER STUDY IN POLAND

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee announces its 2014 annual Summer Study program in Poland at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. The five-week Polish language course (July 7–August 9) includes 100 hours of instruction at beginning, intermediate or advanced levels, plus lectures on Polish culture and sightseeing. Cost estimate: \$3,425 including tuition, room, and board, and five UWM credits, plus round-air trip transportation Chicago-Warsaw-Chicago. The program is open to students and the general public.

Also offered are intensive and highly intensive courses on Polish language in July and August, ranging from two to eight weeks.

For information and application materials contact Professor Michael J. Mikoś, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures,

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee,  
Milwaukee, WI 53201. Tel. (414) 229-4151 or  
4948, fax (414) 229-2741. Email:  
[mikos@uwm.edu](mailto:mikos@uwm.edu)

### Thank You Note

*Sarmatian Review* and the Polish Institute of Houston are grateful to those readers who support the journal over and above the price of subscription. Without them it would be difficult to continue publication. Donations to *Sarmatian Review* and its publisher, the Polish Institute of Houston, are tax deductible. *Sarmatian Review* is not on any foundation's list of bounty recipients; it is independent and bears the financial consequences of being a free voice. Here is a list of recent donors:

Dr. Anna Frajlich-Zajac, Mr. Jozef Lechanski,  
Professor Michael J. Mikoś.

### About the Authors

**John M. Grondelski** is a former associate dean and associate professor at the School of Theology, Seton Hall University. He writes from Taipei, Taiwan.

**Krzysztof Koehler** is professor of Polish Literature at the Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński University in Warsaw and former director (2006–2011) of the Culture Channel (TVP) on Polish state television. He is the author of numerous books on Polish sixteenth- and seventeenth-century writings, including a definitive biography of Stanisław Orzechowski (1513–1566). He has produced a number of films on Old Polish masters. His four volumes of poetry have earned him the reputation of being one of the finest poets in contemporary Poland. He has recently edited a series of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century treatises on republicanism and freedom (*Humanitas: Studia kulturoznawcze*) published by Ignatianum Press in Kraków; volume 4 in the series is reviewed in this issue of *SR*.

**Adam Mickiewicz** (1798–1856) has never surrendered his title of Poland's foremost poet of Romanticism in spite of many challengers.

**Graeme Morton** is professor of History at the University of Dundee and author of, among others, *Ourselves and Others: Scotland 1832–1914* (2012) and *William Wallace: Man and Myth* (2001).

**Terrence O'Keeffe**, a writer and reviewer, is the author of *The Posthumous Lives of Colonel Reidl*.

**James Edward Reid** ([www.jamesedwardreid.ca](http://www.jamesedwardreid.ca)) is a writer and editor. He has published in *Vallum: New International Poetic*, *The Pacific Rim Review of Books*, *The Globe and Mail Books*, and many other periodicals.

**Christopher A. Zakrzewski** is a noted translator from Polish into English. He teaches at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy in Ontario, Canada.

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**SR recommends these websites**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31xojg\\_tEds](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31xojg_tEds)

A reading of “Ordon’s Redoubt” (*Reduta Ordon*) from Stefan Żeromski’s *Sisyphean Labors*. Quintessentially Polish.

[www.DobraPolskaSzkola.com](http://www.DobraPolskaSzkola.com)

An amazing portal. Not only materials and suggestions for Polish Saturday schools in the United States, but also cultural events and travel.

<http://www.pbgot.pl/pl/Wsparcie>

Polska Baza Genetyczna Ofiar Totalitaryzmów: Money is needed to continue archeological investigations of areas in the Powązki Cemetery where the communist police buried in unmarked graves the tortured victims of their interrogations (the heroes of Polish resistance). The Polish state under Prime Minister Tusk has declined to contribute, partly because of its chronically unbalanced budgets. The work is conducted owing largely to private donations. This research has already identified many individuals including Witold Pilecki, murdered by the Soviet-controlled secret police in 1947, the man who volunteered for Auschwitz and later reported on what he saw there.

<http://homes.yahoo.com/news/basics-windowsill-gardener-poland-edition-130000877.html>

A lovely site titled “Basics for the Windowsill Gardener, Poland Edition.” An entrepreneur in Poland started a site featuring basic garden tools and plants for sale. The site targets the mini-gardeners: those who have only windowsills or little porches at their disposal. The remarkable feature of this site is the stunning beauty of its photographs—take a look and experience the feeling of peace and serenity the site generates.

<http://www.warsawuprising.com>

A professionally executed site about Rising ’44 by Witold O. Kieżun. Text and original photos.

<http://pulchra.pl/>

Very fine jewelry made of tree resin through a patented process. Look at the Gallery—these are works of beauty.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnGEDGJeuOI>

Włodek Pawlik won the Best Large Jazz Ensemble Grammy at the ceremony in Los Angeles for the album “Night in Calisia (*Kalisz* in Polish) by his trio, trumpeter Randy Brecker and Kalisz Philharmonic. The award is the first ever for a Polish jazz musician at the United States’ top music ceremony, now in its 56th year. You can listen to it free of charge on YouTube.

<http://www.meblik.eu/shipping-to-usa-pl/>

A graceful and elegant display of children’s furniture caught our eye as we cruised the Web. They promise to deliver to the United States as well. High class and excellent design.

No, *Sarmatian Review* does not receive any remuneration from the sites mentioned above. Nor do we assume any responsibility for the current content of these sites. We simply liked the content of the sites when we checked them.

**BOOKS** (continued from Page 1838)

*Gulag w oczach Zachodu* (The Gulag under Western Eyes), by **Dariusz Tolczyk**. Warsaw: Prószyński i S-ka ([www.proszynski.pl](http://www.proszynski.pl)), 2009. 344 pages. Index of persons. ISBN 978-83-7648-1081. Paper. In Polish.

An innovative study of the Soviet Gulag that combines narrative skill with factual accuracy. In many ways, the best book on the Gulag to date. After a philosophical introduction and a brief history of modern Russian public relations activities (starting with Peter the Great and reaching a high peak under Catherine the Great), the author details the development of the labor camp system and its double goal: to eliminate the recalcitrant and to get out of them as much labor as they could deliver before dying from malnutrition and maltreatment. Particularly chilling are the accounts of those American, British, French, and German politicians and journalists who wrote their mendacious reports from the USSR in the 1930s thus promoting the sympathy and admiration toward the “great light from the East.” We are waiting for the English edition of this book.