

Book review**Slavic & East European Journal**

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Poland:**An Illustrated History****Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski**New York: Hippocrene Books, '08
Illustrations. Index. 282 pp.
\$19.95 (cloth).

With this work, Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski makes a valuable contribution to Hippocrene Books' long list of publications on Polish history and culture. Pogonowski -- trained as a scientist and identified as a lexicographer-writer on the book's back cover -- is also the author of *Jews in Poland: A Documentary History* (Hippocrene Books, 1997) and Polish-English dictionaries. This most recent book, *Poland: An Illustrated History*, covers more than a thousand years of Polish history in fewer than three hundred pages. The result of Pogonowski's ambitious attempt is admirable. All major historical figures and events are mentioned. Political and social issues are aptly discussed, and cultural history is very much an integral part of the book. Overall, the book is written in a clear and concise way, which makes it easy for all audiences to read.

The book is divided into many short chapters, ranging from one to a few dozen pages. It also contains maps, timelines of Polish history, lists of Nobel Prize winners born in Poland, and an index of key figures and events mentioned throughout the book. A highlight of the book is the section on the Second World War. Pogonowski's personal experience of the war no doubt enables him to narrate many events with a rare authenticity and authority. The book describes the Nazi invasion of 1939 in detail and discusses the effects of the German occupation on the press, art and literature. This section is narrated with precise dates and statistics, and the result is a gripping account of the war that commands the reader's attention.

To cover such an expansive period of history in so few pages, one must necessarily prioritize the most important information, sometimes at the expense of narrative coherence. In several instances, the book simply lists historical events as if they were self-explanatory. For example, Pogonowski writes "President Carter stated that his national security advisor would be Polish-born Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski" (239), without discussing the significance or implications of such a choice. Whether this frequent lack of coherence is a result of space limitations is unclear, but one-sentence paragraphs and a lack of transitions are common throughout the book. Consequently, Pogonowski often leaves ideas and arguments underdeveloped and sometimes his paragraphs lack a logical flow.

The book provides a solid starting point for those seeking an introduction to Polish history, but it is not detailed enough for scholars to use as a reference. In contrast to existing accounts of Polish history, such as Norman Davies's *God's Playground* (Columbia UP, 1982), Pogonowski's book cites other works only sporadically and has no bibliography. Furthermore, the author sometimes abandons the historian's ideal of objectivity and strays into subjectivity. For example, we see the phrase "parasitic growth of Prussia at Poland's expense" by the map of the 1795 partition (147). Pogonowski's diction sometimes reveals a pro-Poland bias and his desire to portray Poland as a victim. This is especially apparent in the book's conclusion, where he states, "Poland is here to stay, judging

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H.RES.1489 -- Calling for an independent international investigation of the April 10, 2010, plane crash in Russia that killed Poland's president Lech Kaczyński and 95 other individuals. (Introduced in House - IH)

HRES 1489 IH 111th CONGRESS 2d Session

H. RES. 1489

Calling for an independent international investigation of the April 10, 2010, plane crash in Russia that killed Poland's president Lech Kaczyński and 95 other individuals.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES June 30, 2010

Mr. KING of New York submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Calling for an independent international investigation of the April 10, 2010, plane crash in Russia that killed Poland's president Lech Kaczyński and 95 other individuals.

Whereas, on April 10, 2010, a plane carrying the Polish President Lech Kaczyński crashed in Russia, killing everyone on board;

Whereas the individuals onboard included President Lech Kaczyński and his wife, the chief of the Polish General Staff and senior Polish military officers, Poland's deputy foreign minister, 12 members of the Polish Parliament, the president of the National Bank of Poland, senior members of the Polish clergy, and relatives of victims of the Katyń massacre;

Whereas President Lech Kaczyński was on his way to honor the 22,000 Polish officers killed at Katyń by the Soviet Secret Police in 1940 when the plane crashed just six miles from Katyń;

Whereas, on April 10, 2010, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev ordered the establishment of a government commission headed by Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to investigate the circumstances of the disaster;

Whereas Edmund Klich, the head of the State Commission for Aircraft Accident Investigations in Poland, was put in charge of the Polish investigative committee;

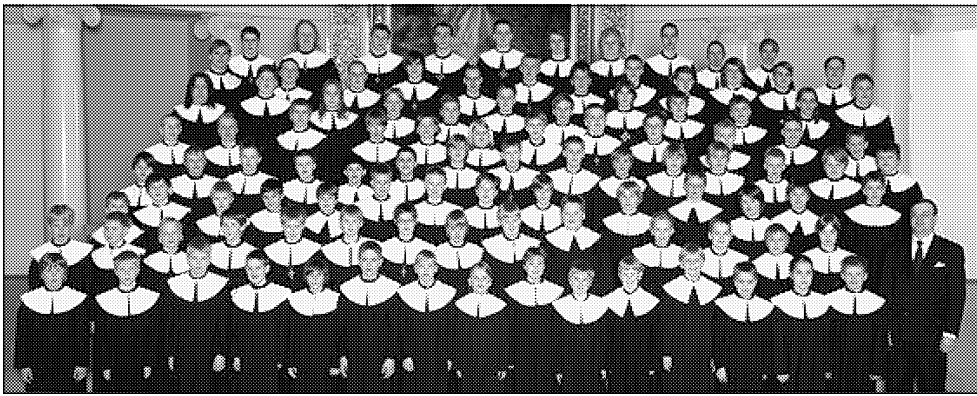
Whereas an investigation committee of the Prosecutor General of Russia started a criminal case in accordance with a violation of the safety rules of the Russian Criminal Code;

Whereas, on May 19, 2010, Alexei Morozov, the head of the technical commission of Russia's Interstate Aviation Committee, released a preliminary report that the plane did not

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CANTORES MINORES US Tour

The Warsaw Archdiocesan Cathedral Boys' Choir, better known as CANTORES MINORES, will be touring the U.S. in July and August. Although their tour will take them from coast to coast, with many stops in between, CANTORES MINORES will start its tour with 3 performances in the Los Angeles area. These performance dates are:

LAKE ARROWHEAD, CA

Saturday, July 24

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church

6:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, July 25

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church

2:00 p.m. Concert

LA CRESCENTA, CA Monday, July 26

St. Luke's-in-the-Mountains Episcopal Church

2563 Foothill Boulevard, - La Crescenta, California 91214

818-248-3639

7:30 p.m. Concert

Since its founding almost 20 years ago, CANTORES MINORES has concertized in 20 countries, including Canada, Mexico and the USA, and has taken part in 32 festivals in Poland and abroad. It has performed with such prestigious ensembles as Berliner Symphoniker and the London Mozarteum and has won top prizes in choral competitions in Moscow (2000), Lecco, Italy (1997), Prague (2002, '03, '04) and Międzyzdroje (2004). CANTORES MINORES was one of the two choirs invited to give a concert for the Vatican's Sala Nervi, a live-broadcast by Eurovision, to celebrate the new millennium on January 2, 2000. In 2008, CANTORES MINORES was invited, along with eight other choirs, to perform an all-Berlioz program with the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra in Strasbourg, France for the European Parliament. That concert was broadcast live and retransmitted to 39 countries by French cable station "Mezzo." Recently, the choir sang at the wake of the President of the Polish Republic and other victims of the tragic air crash in Smolensk, Russia.

Based in the Basilica Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Warsaw's Old Town, CANTORES MINORES was founded by its artistic director, Joseph Herter. A native of Detroit, Mr. Herter graduated from the University of Michigan's School of Music in Ann Arbor. He continued his studies under three legendary music personalities: Robert Shaw (choral conducting), Seiji Ozawa and Kurt Masur (orchestral conducting). Having travelled to Poland on a Kościuszko Foundation grant in 1974, Mr. Herter relocated there, serving as a teacher, writer, and choral and orchestral conductor, as well as most recently, the Kościuszko Foundation representative for Warsaw. In May 2003, he was honored by the Polish Ministry of Culture with the "Distinguished Cultural Activist" award. □

What's in a (Polish) Name?**What does your Polish name mean?**

Have you ever wondered what your Polish last name meant? Or that of other people you know? Many started out as patronymic nicknames to indicate who one's father was. Andrzejczak, Stasiak and Jakubowicz are the English equivalents of Anderson, Stanson and Jameson.

Other surnames originated to describe someone's native village: Wiśniewski (from Wiśniewo/Cherryville), Dębowski (from Dębowo/Oakville) and Piotrowski (from Piotrow/Peterburg).

For a custom-researched analysis of the meaning and derivation of your last name, how many people share it, where they live and whether a coat of arms goes with it. (illustrations of the coats of arms are provided), please airmail a \$16 check (adding \$9 for each additional surname) to:

Robert Strybel
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You will also get a bonus contact sheet including links to genealogical groups, professional researchers, Web sites and data bases which many Polish-American root-tracers have found helpful in ancestral exploration. □

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