



POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE - An ALL VOLUNTEER non-profit organization sending medical and surgical supplies to hospitals in Poland having Pediatric units enabling children to benefit from surgery performed while remaining in Poland. In 2008 among specialized equipment requested by the hospitals included infusion pumps, monitors and a fully equipped cardiac ambulance. Generous donations from Polonia and American supporters make this possible and much is still needed. Contributions may be made in memory of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support.
For information call 732-680-0680 or 732-341-5044.
Ronald Syslo, C.E.O.

POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE
A non-profit corporation - New Jersey
**177 BROADWAY
CLARK, NJ 07066**

"What one does for others, Lives forever!"

Aleksandra E. Patras, President

Gala Fundraiser CyberKnife for Poland

The CyberKnife, a sophisticated robotic radiosurgery system, is a nonsurgical, painless technology that can reduce or eliminate certain lesions and tumors, many previously considered inoperable anywhere in the human body. It integrates a robotically controlled mobile linear accelerator with a state-of-the-art image-guidance system and can also offer significantly fewer complications and lower risk than classical "open" surgery.

As a radiosurgery tool capable of delivering highly precise high dose radiation without cumbersome or painful stereotactic frames, the CyberKnife extends the use of radiosurgery beyond brain tumors into various regions of the body including the spine, lung, pancreas, liver and prostate.

Professor Wojciech Maksymowicz, a world-recognized neurosurgeon and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Warmia and Mazury University in Olsztyn, Poland, is the initiator and organiz-

er of the purchase of the first CyberKnife for Poland.

This system is so effective that with only one CyberKnife, Polish doctors may perform more than 120 treatments each month, giving patients with hard-to-reach or difficult tumors another significant option of treatment and new hope for the future.

Recently, the Polish American Health Association (PAHA) initiated a fundraising program to support the purchase of the first CyberKnife for Poland.

An official Gala Fundraiser will be held at The Embassy of the Republic of Poland, 2640 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, on Saturday, March 28, 2009, Reception at 6:00 pm.

For more information contact Mr. Wlodek Lopaczynski (954) 980-8945 or Embassy (202) 234-3800, www.polandembassy.org

His Excellency Robert Kupiecki,

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 13)

Group Show At Polish Museum of America

ILLINOIS - In conjunction with the 2009 Southern Graphics Council Conference, The Polish Museum of America is pleased to announce its exhibit, *Pressing Matter: A Glimpse at the Polish Print Continuum*.

The exhibition is organized under the honorary patronage of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Bogdan Zdrojewski, the President of Wspólnota Polska Association, Maciej Płażyński and the Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, the Honorable Zygmunt Matynia.

Public reception: Thursday, March 26, 2009, 6 – 8 p.m.

- Performance by internationally acclaimed Jazz singer Grazyna Auguscik

- Artists and conference panelists Stanislaw Wejman and Malgorzata Malwina Niespodziewana will be present.

- Flavors of the Polish Highlands and Poland's finest vodka

- An exhibition catalogue will be available

The exhibition offers a context for understanding contemporary graphic art in Poland by presenting the work of three generations of Polish printmaking. As a survey exhibition, the show offers a glimpse into the ways Polish print media has evolved over five decades. Established artists are shown alongside artists who represent the future of Polish printmaking: Marta Bozyk, Malgorzata Gurowska, Grzegorz Handerek, Agata Jakubowska, Jerzy Jedrysiak, Malgorzata Malwina Niespodziewana, Henryk Ozog, Mirosław Pawlowski, Anna Sadowska, Anna Sobol-Wejman, Krzysztof Skorczewski, Krzysztof Swietek and Stanislaw Wejman. To give a historical context, the exhibition includes pieces from The Polish Museum of America collection created by a number of notable graphic artists working in Poland.

Exhibition at the PMA: March 20 – April 19, 2009

In addition to this exhibit, over 60 graphic shows will be presented in Chicago. The 2009 conference will be held at Columbia College in Chicago March 25 – 28 and will be attended by over 1,000 delegates. The Southern Graphics Council is the largest organization of printmakers in North America with nearly 2,000 members.

For more information: www2.colum.edu/sgc

The exhibition is co-curated by Monika Nowak, Graphic Art Collection Curator at The Polish Museum of America and Beauvais Lyons, Professor of Art at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Nowak received her MA degree in Art History from Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland and is certificated in Museum Studies through Northwestern University.

She has curated numerous exhibitions, including the international printmaking exhibition *Intergrafia'97* held in Katowice, Poland and worked as a catalogue editor at the International Print Triennial Society, Krakow. Lyons, a former President of the Southern Graphics Council, held a Fulbright

Fellowship in Poznan, Poland in 2002 and coordinated the IMPACT 4 International Printmaking Conference in Poznan and Berlin in 2005.

The Polish Museum of America is one of the oldest and the largest eth-

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 13)

Polish Literature (GAINED, NOT LOST) IN TRANSLATION

By
Ewa Bronowicz

GUSTAW HERLING

The Island: Three Tales
(*Skrzydla Oltarza, Drugie Przyschiez*)
Translated by Ronald Strom

Penguin Books, New York. 152pp. \$14.00



The Uplifting Quality of Misery, If You Can Find It

"I do not regret being unable to write a story about the tenant of the tower," says the narrator of *The Tower*. "If there were not things on human life that man's imagination refused to comprehend, he would end by cursing the despair that penetrates literature, instead of seeing hope in its productions." These words may as well be the writer's motto. Gustaw Herling (Grudzinski), most acclaimed for "A World Apart" (1951), in which he records his experiences in a Soviet gulag during the Second World War, has written endlessly about cruelty and loneliness and death, and yet there is always hope lurking beneath the surface?—if not hope of better days than of a better moment in one's life, even if that moment were to last a for just split second.

"The Island" is a volume of three novellas, all set in Italy, where the author lived for many years. *The Island*, by far the longest, tells the story of a self-taught sculptor who becomes disabled after an accident at work. The narrator of *The Tower* talks about a traveler who befriends a leper. *The Second Coming*, subtitled *A Medieval Tale* and set in the 13th century, imagines the thoughts and doubts and fears of Pope Urban IV and likens his sufferings to those of Jesus. What the novellas have in common, other than misery that spills over the characters like heavy rain, is an intense connection between the past and the present. In *The Island*, for example, the Certosa, a medieval monastery with bloody and shameful secrets, becomes as essential to the plot as its main character, Sebastiano. Each of the novellas is infused with its own sense of history, and, what comes with it (at least in Catholic countries like Italy or Poland, for that matter) - religion. Even if your first instinct is to skip the historical and/or religious descriptions and move on to the center of the action, plowing through them somehow leaves you with a bigger picture in which history repeats itself, and so it is with human happiness and unhappiness. But if this is no consolation to people like the leper (in *The Tower*) whose obsessive desire for life and companionship ultimately kills him, then perhaps not knowing the year in which the tower of his confinement was built wouldn't matter one way or the other.

If history and religion are like characters in Herling's novellas, then the binding theme is undoubtedly solitude. In *The Island* solitude is destroying Pedro Rocca, a priest "bit by bit like cancer;" in *The Tower* the isolated leper "sometimes embraced the trunks of trees in the woods, begging God to animate them and give him at least one friend;" and in *The Second Coming* the pope dies lonely, and not even God can help him. Accordingly, a possible reaction to this collection would be exactly what one of Herling's characters warns about—the "cursing despair that penetrates literature." But hope is here too, and, in its rarity, it may mean more than it wants to give. The traveler in *The Tower* offers to shake the leper's hand goodbye. "No one has ever shaken my hand," the leper says and explains that he cannot be touched due to his contagious disease. But the traveler's offer, this proof that a true bond with another human being is possible, will stay with the leper forever. Or at least we hope so.

Any questions or comments for Ewa.... You can contact her by visiting her website: www.literatka-nyc.com

Making Your Will

Many people talk about leaving gifts to worthy causes, but don't have a will, and do not realize it requires a will to do so. The laws of most states make it quite clear that personal property goes automatically, by law, to your nearest relatives, even if they are quite distant ones, unless you have a legal will that says otherwise. If you have no relatives it goes to the state. More than half of all adult Americans die without having made their wills.

Besides money, non-cash possessions can also be used as contributions. Be a philanthropist; leave your stocks, bonds, real estate, art, valuable collections or insurance to continue the Polish American traditions. Your will is the most important way of giving, when you are gone it is a legacy that is not forgotten. You can specify what you would like your donation to be used for.



The American Center of Polish Culture, Inc.
2025 "O" Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20036
202-785-2320
202-785-2159 Fax

The American Center of Polish Culture, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that needs your help.

www.polishcenterdc.org
Email: director@polishcenterdc.org



Polish American Cultural Center
308 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 922-1700

When You're in Philadelphia's Historic District Visit The **Polish American Cultural Center Museum Exhibit Hall**
308 Walnut Street
Featuring Polish History and Culture
**Open 10 AM to 4 PM
FREE ADMISSION**

January through April
Monday to Friday

May through December
Monday to Saturday

Gift Shop is Open During
Regular Exhibit Hall Hours

Closed on Holidays

Visit the Polish American Cultural Center Museum on the Internet at: www.PolishAmericanCenter.org

Featured on the web site are brief outlines of Great Men and Women of Polish Heritage, information about Polish customs and traditions, and information about organizations and activities in the Polish American Community.

