

Historic Reflections from the Polish American Cultural Center Museum in Philadelphia, PA • April / May



April 20, 1920 - Vilna Offensive

The Vilna offensive was a campaign of the Polish-Soviet War of 1919–1921. The Polish army launched an offensive on April 16, 1919 to take Vilnius (Polish: Wilno) from the Red Army. After three days of street fighting from April 19–21, the city was captured by Polish forces causing the Red Army to retreat.

April 21, 1978 - Krystyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz

Krystyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz of Poland became the first woman to sail around the world alone in a 31-foot vessel. The trip took 401 days and covered 31,166 nautical miles. On April 21, 1978, Krystyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz completed her solo trip and gained her title "The First Lady of the Oceans".



April 22, 1915 - Founding

The Polish Museum of America's Library was founded on April 22, 1915 in Chicago, Illinois, by the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. The Library collects books and information on the history of Polonia in America and on the history of Poland.

April 23, 1989 - Mother Frances Siedliska (Beatified)

Mother Frances Siedliska was the foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in 1875. The Sisters serve in education, health care and social services in Poland, France, England and the United States. Mother Frances Siedliska was beatified on April 23, 1989, by Pope John Paul II.



April 24, 1908 - Józef Goslawski (Born)

Józef Goslawski was an author of numerous monuments and portrait sculptures, sculpture caricatures, medals, coins, renovations and drawings. His early works, generally not conserved, show some influence of cubism (self-portrait, portrait of Witold Chomicz), Szukalski's ideas (sculpture caricature of Henryk Uziemblo), as well as forms similar to ideas of the Polish Applied Art Society (design of the St. Franciscus altar).



April 25, 1333 - King Casimir the Great (Coronation)

Poland's King Casimir the Great reigned between 1333 and 1370. In 1364, Casimir the Great, known by his Polish name, Kazimierz Wielki, established Poland's first university in Krakow, which became Jagiellonian University, the second oldest university in Europe.



April 26, 1919 - Napoleon Cybulski (Died)

In 1895, Napoleon Cybulski discovered Adrenaline, a hormone which regulates brain and muscle activity.



April 27, 1941 - Marian Batko (Polish Teachers' Day)

On April 27, Polish Teachers' Day of Remembrance and Peace, about a thousand Polish teachers and students paid homage to the victims of the Auschwitz Nazi camp. The date coincides with the anniversary of the martyr-death in Auschwitz of the teacher Marian Batko, who gave his life for a 16-year-old fellow prisoner.



April 28, 1943 - Nicholas Minue (Died)

Nicholas Minue (birth unknown – died April 28, 1943) received the Medal of Honor for military service on behalf of the United States of America in World War II. He received this recognition for charging a group of German soldiers that had a machine-gun position near Medjez El Bab, Tunisia. He died during the charge. Born in Sedden, Poland, he enlisted in the United States Army in Carteret, NJ. He served in Company A, 6th Armored Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division.



April 29, 1926 - Paul Baran (Born)

Paul Baran was one of the early developers of the Internet, ATM technology, and DSL modem technology. He was born in Poland in 1926 and his family emigrated to Boston in 1928. Mr. Baran has connections to Philadelphia through Drexel University where he did his undergraduate work.



April 30, 1632 - Zygmunt III Waza (Died)

Zygmunt III Waza (20 June 1566 – 30 April 1632) was Grand Duke of Lithuania and Crown King of Poland, a monarch of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth from 1587 to 1632, and King of Sweden (where he was known simply as Sigismund) from 1592 until he was deposed in 1599. He was the son of King John III of Sweden and his first wife, Catherine Jagellonica of Poland.



May 1, 1908 - Krystyna Skarbek (Born)

Krystyna Skarbek became a spy for the British Special Operations Executive during World War II. She was well-known for her operations in Nazi occupied Poland and France. Due to her resourcefulness and success, more women were recruited by espionage organizations.



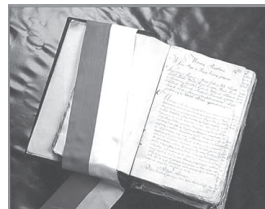
May 2, 1952 - Christine Baranski (Born)

Christine Baranski is an Emmy and Tony Award winning actress. She was born in Buffalo, NY. She is known for her outstanding performances in the TV series Cybill and Frasier. She also has been in several movies including the Bird Cage and Grinch that Stole Christmas.



May 3, 1791 - Polish Constitution Day

Polish Constitution Day marked the second oldest democratic constitution in the world, enacted in Poland on May 3, 1791. This declaration of democracy remains a focal point for the Polish People who are reminded that Poland was the fatherland of documented democracy in Eastern Europe, second only to the democracy established by the American constitution adapted in 1787.



May 4, 1870 - Zygmunt Stojowski (Born)

Zygmunt Stojowski was a friend of Peter Tchaikovsky and famous student of Ignacy Jan Paderewski. Stojowski was not only a brilliant concert pianist, he was known for being an outstanding professor, teaching countless students in New York until the end of his life. He became a champion of the newly independent Polish nation in 1918.



May 5, 1846 - Henryk Sienkiewicz (Born)

Henryk Sienkiewicz is a Nobel Prize winner for literature in 1905. Sienkiewicz was born in Poland in 1846 and is the author of "Quo Vadis?" and three other novels known as "The Trilogy".



May 6, 1867 - Wladyslaw Reymont (Born)

Wladyslaw Reymont received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1924 for his four-volume novel, "The Peasants", completed between 1904 and 1910. Never before had an author presented the daily life and folkways of the Polish countryside.



May 7, 2004 - Waldemar Milewicz (Died)

Waldemar Milewicz was a Polish journalist and war correspondent who was killed in a drive-by shooting in Iraq. It is believed that his car was followed by a group of Iraqi insurgents in another car. Milewicz's car was clearly marked with a 'press' sticker. Despite that, when the attackers caught up with it, they opened machine gun fire.



May 8 - Saint Stanislaus Feast Day

Poland's Patron Saint, Saint Stanislaus, an early Bishop of Krakow, Poland, was slain by King Boleslaw Smialy while celebrating Mass in 1079. His body lies in the cathedral of Wawel Hill, in Krakow, Poland. Hundreds of Polish churches across the world are named after St. Stanislaus in honor of Poland's Patron Saint.



May 9, 1931 - Albert Michelson (Died)

Albert Michelson was born in Strzelno, Poland, and emigrated to the U.S. with his family in 1855. He was a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, held several professorships at universities across the U.S. and received a Nobel Prize in physics in 1907. His passion was the accurate measurement of the speed of light. Using his interferometer, he paved the way for the development of the theory of relativity, formulated by Albert Einstein.

