

## Stefan Kudelski, Polish Inventor of Recorder That Changed Hollywood, Dies at 83

By PAUL VITELLO - New York Times  
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Stefan Kudelski, the inventor of the first professional-quality portable tape recorder, which revolutionized Hollywood moviemaking and vastly expanded the reach of documentarians, independent filmmakers and eavesdroppers on both sides in the cold war, died on Saturday in Switzerland. He was 83.



The audio engineer Stefan Kudelski and a Nagra recorder.

His death was announced by the Kudelski Group, the Swiss electronics engineering firm he founded in 1951. No cause was given.

The Polish-born Mr. Kudelski was an engineering student at a Swiss university in 1951 when he patented his first portable recording device, the Nagra I, a reel-to-reel tape recorder, about the size of a shoe box and weighing 11 pounds, that produced sound as good as that of most studio recorders, which were phone-booth-size. Radio stations in Switzerland were his first customers.

The bigger breakthrough came seven years later, when Mr. Kudelski introduced a high-quality tape recorder that could synchronize sound with the frames on a reel of film. Mr. Kudelski's 1958 recorder, the Nagra III, weighed about 14 pounds and freed a new generation of filmmakers from the conventions and high cost of studio production.

Along with the newly developed portable 16-millimeter camera, the Nagra recorder became an essential tool for the on-location, often improvisational techniques of New Wave directors like François Truffaut and Jean-Luc Godard, and American documentarians like D. A. Pennebaker, who used the Nagra to record the 1965 Bob Dylan tour featured in his classic film "Don't Look Back," released in 1967.

In various interviews, Mr. Pennebaker, Mr. Godard and Mr. Truffaut have all credited Mr. Kudelski with helping to make possible the informality and journalistic realism of their work.

Mr. Kudelski received Academy Awards for his technical contributions to filmmaking in 1965, 1977, 1978 and 1990, and Emmy Awards in 1984 and 1986.

In the 1960s, Mr. Kudelski's firm also began making miniature recorders for what its online catalog calls "surveillance and security" work. The first of these pocket-size machines was the SN "Serie Noire," which the company's Web site boasts was "originally ordered by President J F Kennedy for the American secret services."

The collection of bugging devices on display at the International Spy Museum in Washington, a privately financed archive run by former C.I.A. employees, includes a Nagra recorder obtained in the 1980s from Stasi, the East German internal security agency.

The Nagra's value to customers like those was generally classified. But it received acclaim by consensus from professionals in the radio, television and film industries. By the early 1960s, Nagras were the standard recording equipment in all three industries. They remained dominant until the advent of digital audio recorders in the 1990s. The company now makes digital recorders, as well as some analog tape devices, but does not rule the market as it once did.

"There was virtually no film made from 1961 until the early '90s that did not use the Nagra," Chris Newman, an Academy Award-winning sound engineer, said on Wednesday. Mr. Newman used the machine in winning Oscars for "The Exorcist" (1973), "Amadeus" (1984) and "The English Patient" (1996). He also used one in making a celebrated 1971 action thriller, "The French Connection."

"We would not have the movies we have today without it," Mr. Newman said.

Stefan Kudelski was born on Feb. 27, 1929, in Warsaw. He escaped Poland with his family at the start of World War II and settled in Switzerland later. After earning a degree in physics and engineering, he began his company as an engineering design firm. It has since become a major Swiss manufacturer of media and security equipment.

His son André succeeded him as chief executive and chairman in 1991. In addition to André, he is survived by four other children, Isabelle, Marguerite, Henri and Irène Kudelski. His wife, Ewa, died in 2000.

Mr. Kudelski's tape recorders were carried on several expeditions to Mount Everest. In 1960, the Swiss oceanographer Jacques Piccard took a Nagra aboard his deep-sea research submarine, Trieste, to record his impressions as he descended to 37,800 feet below the surface of the Pacific off Guam. It remains the deepest known place on the Earth's ocean floor.

## Jozef Cardinal Glemp Dies At Age 83

Former Primate of Poland, Józef Cardinal Glemp, leader of Poland's Roman Catholic Church through the transition from communism to democracy, passed away in Warsaw at the age of 83. The Cardinal, who had been suffering from a long illness, died in the hospital of lung cancer late in the evening on Wednesday, January 23, 2013.

Cardinal Glemp, born in December 1929 in Inowroclaw, Kujawia, was appointed Primate of Poland after the death of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński in 1981, the year martial law was declared by the Polish communist authorities. As head of the Catholic Church in Poland, he led the Church through the difficult 1980s which saw the collapse of communism. He remained Primate of Poland until December 18, 2009.

His ecclesiastical career saw him ordained to the priesthood in 1956. Two years later he was sent to Rome to study canon law and returned to Poland with his doctorate in 1964. Upon his return, he worked for 15 years in the Secretariat of Cardinal Wyszyński. Glemp was consecrated a bishop in 1979 and a cardinal in 1983. As the Archbishop of Warsaw he also served as President of the Episcopal Conference in Poland from 1981 to 2004.

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– Joseph Herter



## Pol-Am Baseball great Stan Musial dies

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Robert Strybel • Mon, Jan 28, 2013

Stan Musial, one of baseball's all-time greats, died at his St. Louis County home Jan. 19, surrounded by family and friends. His health had declined in recent years as a result of various afflictions including Alzheimer's disease, and he was under hospice care when he quietly passed away at the age of 92.



"Here stands baseball's perfect warrior. Here stands baseball's perfect knight." "Here stands baseball's perfect warrior. Here stands baseball's perfect knight."

Stan "the Man" Musial was the greatest player in the history of the St. Louis Cardinals and the quintessential Cardinal down to the very end. Musial played his entire 22-season career with the Cardinals, from 1941 to 1963.

A .331 lifetime batter, Musial hit .300 or better 16 straight seasons, beginning in 1942. He played on three world championship teams (1942, 1944 and 1946) and in 24 All-Star Games, tying a record. He won three National League Most Valuable Player awards.

A friendly, fun-loving likable sort, Musial enjoyed making other people happy. He would tell a joke or play his harmonica at the drop of a hat and was always baseball's perfect goodwill ambassador.

In 1969 he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown. When Polonia's Orchard Lake Schools first established the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame (<http://polishsportshof.com>) on their lakeside campus near Detroit in 1973, Musial was the first Polonian athlete to be so honored.

A large bronze statue to Musial at St. Louis' new Busch Stadium carries the inscription: "Here stands baseball's perfect warrior. Here stands baseball's perfect knight." In 1999, Musial was named a member of the 20th century's All-Century Team, and in 2011 President Barack Obama presented him with the Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian decoration.

A proud Polish American who spoke a fair brand of Polish, in his later years Musial wanted to share his love of the sport with kids in his ancestral homeland. Born in Donora, PA, a town some 20 miles south of Pittsburgh, he may have come close to ending up in the NBA.

His Polish-born dad Lukasz had been pressuring him to accept a basketball scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh, but his mother Marysia went to bat for her son. "Why did you come to America?" She asked her husband. "Because it's a free country," he replied. To which she retorted: "Yes, and that means a boy is free NOT to go to college if he doesn't want to."

I had the good fortune to meet Musial in Warsaw during some of his numerous trips to Poland when he was working on various pro-Polish projects with his good friend Edward Pizek, Philadelphia industrialist and humanitarian. Having heard that coaches from Castro's Cuba were planning to introduce baseball to Poland, they put their heads together to do something about it.

After years of effort and sizable financial outlays, Musial and Pizek were largely instrumental in introducing Little League Baseball to Poland. Their negotiating skills were also responsible for the central Polish town of Kutno becoming the Little League headquarters for all of Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Initially the German city of Ramstein had been nominated for that distinction. One of Kutno's seven stadiums is now officially known as Stan Musial Little League Stadium.

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