

Polish American Cultural Center Museum in Philadelphia, PA

Museum's Historic Reflections Project February / March

The Polish American Cultural Center Museum in Historic Philadelphia presents Historic Reflections from Polish and Polish American history on the Polish American Radio Program. The reflections are organized in a daily format. Some of the dates may be the birthday or death date of a prominent person. Other dates may celebrate a milestone in a prominent person's life such as a career promotion, invention date, or some accomplishment that contributed to science, medicine, sports, or entertainment history. Other dates may be an anniversary of a historical event in Polonia or Poland's history.

For your information, we have listed a brief outline of historic reflections for the months of February / March.



February 1, 1979 - Julie Ann Augustyniak (Born)

Julie Ann Augustyniak (born Norfolk, VA, February 1, 1979) is an American soccer player who played for the Atlanta Beat of the Women's United Soccer Association.

February 2, 1676 - Jan III Sobieski (Coronation)

Jan Sobieski was a king and military leader of Poland in 1676. It was Sobieski who defeated the Turkish Armies during the battle of Vienna in 1683 which in turn saved Europe and Western Civilization. He has been honored for centuries as the "Defender of Christendom."



February 3, 1974 - Konrad Galka (Born)

Konrad Galka (born February 3, 1974 in Kraków) is a former butterfly swimmer from Poland, who competed in two consecutive Summer Olympics for his native country, starting in 1992.

February 4, 1746 - General Thaddeus Kosciuszko (Born)

During the struggle for America's Independence, General Thaddeus Kosciuszko returned to his homeland of Poland. He swore an oath in the Krakow market place to fight for Poland's liberty and took command of the Polish uprising in 1794, urging all men to take up arms to defend Poland.



February 5, 1909 - Grazyna Bacewicz (Born)

Grazyna Bacewicz was a Polish composer and violinist. She is only the second Polish female composer to have achieved national and international recognition, the first being Maria Szymanowska in the early 19th century.

February 6, 1962 - Wladyslaw Dziewulski (Died)

Wladyslaw Dziewulski was a Polish astronomer and mathematician. He spent his life performing astronomical research and published over 200 papers. He has a crater on the moon named after him as well as the planetarium in Torun, Poland.



February 7, 1810 - Marcin Odlanicki Poczobutt (Born)

Marcin Odlanicki Poczobutt was a Polish-Lithuanian Jesuit astronomer and mathematician. He was professor of Vilnius University for over 50 years, serving as its rector from 1780 to 1799. The Poczobutt crater on the Moon is named after him.

February 8, 1813 - Tadeusz Czacki (Died)

Tadeusz Czacki was a Polish historian, pedagogue and numismatist. Czacki played an important part in the Enlightenment in Poland.



February 9, 1940 - Bohdan Paczynski (Born)

Bohdan Paczynski was a Polish astronomer, a leading scientist in theory of the evolution of stars, accretion discs and gamma ray bursts.

February 10, 1962 - Wladyslaw Broniewski (Died)

Wladyslaw Broniewski was a Polish poet and soldier. Broniewski made his literary debut in 1925 with the poem Bagnat na Bron which translated means, Bayonets Ready. This work has become a classic of patriotic war poetry.



February 11, 1909 - Joseph Mankiewicz (Born)

Joseph Leo Mankiewicz was an American film director, screenwriter, and producer. Mankiewicz had a long Hollywood career and is best known as the writer-director of the Oscar-winning All About Eve (1950). He was brother to the equally famous screenwriter and drama critic Herman J. Mankiewicz who also won an Oscar — for co-writing Citizen Kane (1941).

February 12, 1939 - Ray Manzarek (Born)

Raymond Daniel Manzarek, Jr., better known as Ray Manzarek, is an American musician, singer, producer, film director, writer, co-founder and keyboardist of The Doors from 1965 to 1973, and The Doors of the 21st Century (renamed Manzarek-Krieger) since 2001. He is the oldest former member of the Doors.



February 13, 1882 - Tadeusz Banachiewicz (Born)

Tadeusz Banachiewicz was a Polish astronomer, mathematician, and the director of the Krakow Observatory. Tadeusz Banachiewicz's international recognition came from his theory of cracovians - a matrix algebra that helped to solve several astronomical, geodesic, mechanical and mathematical problems. A lunar crater is named after him.

February 14, 1916 - Wawrzyniec Zulawski (Born)

Wawrzyniec Jerzy Zulawski, also known as Wawa, was a Polish alpinist, educator, composer, music critic, and musicologist. He was a professor of Panstwowa Wyzsza Szkola Muzyczna in Warsaw. Zulawski was an initiator and organizer of Polish alpinism. During World War II he was a member of Armia Krajowa and was a soldier during the Warsaw Uprising.



February 15, 1903 - Fr. Jozef Dabrowski (Died)

Fr. Jozef Dabrowski was an educator and founder of the Orchard Lake Schools in Michigan. Born at Zoltance, Russian Poland he studied at the Gymnasium of Lublin and at the University of Warsaw. During the Polish January Uprising of 1863 he participated in many engagements, and in 1864 fled to Dresden; thence to Lucerne and Berne where he continued his studies in mathematics.

February 16, 1929 - Kazimierz Kutz (Born)

Kazimierz Julian Kutz is a Polish film director, author, journalist and politician, one of the representatives of the Polish Film School and a deputy speaker of the Senate of Poland.



February 17, 1837 - Konstanty Jelski (Born)

Konstanty Jelski was an acclaimed Polish ornithologist and zoologist. He conducted many important studies abroad, specifically in Guiana and Peru from 1866 to 1875. He was the curator of a museum in Lima from 1874 to 1878. He returned to Poland to become the curator of the Krakow Museum.

February 18, 1914 - Julius Kuczynski (Born)

Julius Frank Kuczynski was better known by his country western, musical stage name, Pee Wee King. He is best known for his song, "Tennessee Waltz", popularized by Patti Page in 1950. Pee Wee King helped to modernize country western music by introducing electric instruments, drums and horns.



February 19, 1473 - Mikolaj Kopernik (Born)

Polish astronomer Mikolaj Kopernik was known by his Latin name Nicholas Copernicus, in the city of Torun, Poland. Copernicus is the Father of Modern Astronomy, known as the man who moved the earth and stopped the sun.

February 20, 1977 - Bartosz Kizierowski (Born)

Bartlomiej ("Bartosz") Kizierowski is a freestyle swimmer from Poland, who competed in three consecutive Summer Olympics, starting in 1996.



February 21, 1958 - Henryk Arctowski (Died)

Henryk Arctowski was a Polish American explorer of the Antarctic. In recognition of his work and his contribution to science, his name has been given to a number of geographical features in Antarctica including a peninsula, a peak and a glacier.



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