

**ODDZIAŁ POLSKI
POLISH CHAPTER**

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THE EXPLORERS CLUB



POLISH CHAPTER
ODDZIAŁ POLSKI

**WORLD CENTER
FOR EXPLORATION**

Honorowy przewodniczący:
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(1919-2008)
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Report from the activity of the Polish Chapter of The Explorers Club 2009

1.) On January 23rd the assembly of the Chapter proceeded to the election of the new Board. Monika Rogozinska (FI'1993) became the new Chair of the Chapter, Prof. Tomasz Schramm (FI'1998) Vice Chair for Finances (Treasurer) Prof. Mariusz Ziolkowski (FI'2002) Vice Chair for Research and Education Maciej Kuczynski (CO'1982) and Jacek Waclawski (FI'2007) - the Audit Committee

2.) In February 2009 two exhibitions were prepared by the members of the Chapter and organized in conjunction with the University of Rzeszów. One of them, in the cellar of the Town Hall, was "Sakkara", showing the activities of Polish archaeologists and conservators under the direction of Prof. Karol Mysliwiec (FI'1999) in Egypt, in the cemeteries west to Djoser pyramid at Sakkara. Another one, at the university itself, was "Gods of the Andes" by Monika Rogozinska and Krystian Bielatowicz – photographic art documentation of the discoveries and conservation works of Polish and Peruvian archaeologists in the Andes under the direction of Prof. Mariusz Ziolkowski. This exhibition received patronage from the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of the Polish UNESCO Committee. Exhibitions were accompanied by lectures given by: Prof. Karol Mysliwiec, Prof. Mariusz Ziolkowski, Monika Rogozinska and Krystian Bielatowicz.



*Prof. Karol Mysliwiec (FI'1999) presents the exhibition „Sakkara”
in the Town Hall of Rzeszow (Credit: Monika Rogozinska)*

3.) Prof. Maria Agata Olech (FI'2001) a specialist in polar biology (lichenology), sailor and speleologist, was granted with the Flag 109 of The Explorers Club for the expedition carrying out the project "Stranger in Antarctic" within the framework of the 33rd Polish Antarctic Expedition. The purpose of the expedition, one in a series of her expeditions, was the biological survey of Penguin Island and King George Island, aiming to create there a reserve protecting the area against the consequences of uncontrolled tourists visits; besides the program of the expedition was the investigation of biological settlements on the areas freed from the glaciers due to melting, and completing the collection of polar mosses and lichens, one of greatest in the world, created by Prof. Olech at the Jagiellonian University, Cracow. A number of species was discovered by Prof. Olech herself. She is head of the Unit of Polar Investigation and Documentation in the Institute of Botanics at Jagiellonian University. The Flag # 109 has accompanied the members of The Explorers Club since 1941.



Prof. Maria Agata Olech (FI'2001) with the Flag 109 at the Polish Antarctic Station on King George Island of the South Shetlands. The station is named after Henryk Arctowski, the scientist of "Belgica" expedition to Antarctica (1897-1899) and the first Polish member of The Explorers Club (Credit: Maria Agata Olech)

4.) In March 2009, during the Annual Meeting of the Club in New York, The Polish Chapter was represented by two of its members. Monika Rogozinska took part in the Chapter Chairs Meeting, in the General Assembly and other meetings. She brought back the Flag 109 (see above). The visit of the Chair of The Polish Chapter in New York was possible thanks to the financial support granted by the Vice Chair of the Polish Chapter, Prof. Tomasz Schramm. Participation in ECAD at Waldorf Astoria thanks to Lorie Karnath. Polar explorer and former Chair of the Polish Chapter – Marek Kaminski (FI'1999) was present in New York as well. His meetings with the Poles living in the US raised, as usual, great interest.



Chapter Chairs Dinner. From the left: Amanda Glickman (Canadian Chapter), Collette and Daniel Bennett – President, Monika Rogozinska (Polish Chapter), (?) Norman Baker – Board of Directors, Joseph Frey - Vice President, Lorie Karnath – new President (Credit. M.R.)

5.) In March 2009 an agreement was concluded between the Polish Chapter and the Polish Community Association *Wspólnota Polska*, concerning common initiatives and the possibility of using the building of the Association, *Dom Polonii* - Polonia House on the Kings Route (Warsaw, Krakowskie Przedmieście 64) for conferences, lectures, exhibitions and so on, organized by the Chapter, and devoted to popularizing the achievements of Polish explorers and researchers, both here and abroad, as well as Polish cultural heritage abroad in general. Both organizations decided to cooperate in commemorating Polish presence in the world under the form of publications, monuments and plaques. The agreement was signed: for *Wspólnota Polska* by its President Maciej Plazynski and its Treasurer Grzegorz Popielarz, for The Polish Chapter of The Explorers Club by its Chair Monika Rogozinska and its Vice Chair, Prof. Mariusz Ziolkowski.



Dom Polonii - Polonia House on the Kings Route (Krakowskie Przedmieście 64 in Warsaw)
(Credit: Monika Rogozinska)

6.) On May 21st 2009 the cycle “The secrets of our planet” was inaugurated by The Polish Chapter in *Dom Polonii – Polonia House* with the multimedia presentation “The Underground World of the Easter Island”. The results of Polish expeditions to Rapa Nui were presented by their leader Andrzej Ciszewski (FI’1999) - speleologist, Marcin Jamkowski (FI’2005) - climber, diver, photographer and journalist, and Maciej Sobczyk - climber and archaeologist (Center for Pre-Columbian Studies, University of Warsaw).

Until the Polish expeditions to the island, some dozen caves were known and explored. In the years 2001-2008 Polish expeditions (the last of them counted 18 persons and lasted two months) discovered and explored 315 caves. They found skulls, bones, stone tools, drawings on the rocks, underground houses and temples. It was the largest underground and underwater investigation of Rapa Nui. One of the results of the last expedition was the reportage published by Marcin Jamkowski in “National Geographic Magazine”. National Geographic Television made a film devoted to the Polish expedition. The results of the expedition also took the form of a travelers and explorers festival “Kolosy” in Gdynia.



Moai of the Eastern Island (Credit. Marcin Jamkowski)



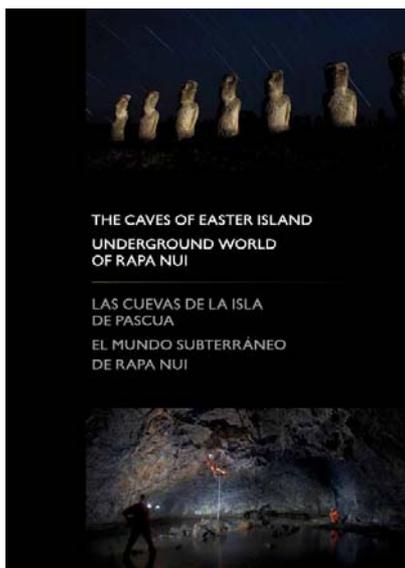
Polish expeditions led by Andrzej Ciszewski (FI'1999) in the years 2001-2008 discovered and explored 315 caves of Eastern Island (Credit: Marcin Jamkowski)



After presentation "Underground World of Rapa Nui" in Polonia House in Warsaw, from the left: Andrzej Chodkiewicz – Director of Polonia House, Monika Rogozinska (FI'93), prof. Mariusz Ziolkowski (FI'02), Maciej Kuczynski (CO'82), Andrzej Ciszewski (FI'99), Marcin Jamkowski (FI'05), Maciej Sobczyk (Credit: Archive of Monika Rogozinska)

7.) During the session “Polish Investigations on Rapa Nui” organised at the prestigious Collegium Maius of Jagiellonian University on December 11th 2009, the results of the expeditions were presented by the leader and member of expeditions: Andrzej Ciszewski (FI’99) (speleology), Prof. Zdzislaw Ryn (FI’99) (medicine) and Maciej Sobczyk (archaeology). The session was accompanied with the photo exhibition “Rapa Nui Without Mysteries?” by Prof. Zdzislaw Ryn.

8.) Another result of the Polish expeditions to Easter Island initiated by the Polish Chapter was the first volume of their documentation, published towards the end of 2009 in English and Spanish under the title: *The Caves of the Easter Island. Underground World of Rapa Nui. Las cuevas de la Isla de Pascua. El mundo subterráneo de Rapa Nui.*



9.) On September 12th 2009 Prof. Mariusz Ziółkowski together with his wife, Prof. Anna Gruszczynska-Ziolkowska took the opportunity of their visit to New Zealand to depose a bunch of flowers with a ribbon in Polish national colors (red and white) before the monument of Sir Edmund Hillary. They also paid a visit to the widow, Lady June Hillary.



Prof. Anna Gruszczynska-Ziolkowska and prof. Mariusz Ziolkowski (FI’02) near by the monument of Sir Edmund Hillary in New Zealand (Credit: Archives of Mariusz Ziolkowski)

10.) The Polish Chapter of The Explorers Club, the Department of Historical Anthropology in the Institute of Archaeology of Warsaw University, the community of Linia and forest district office Strzebielino in the region of Kaszuby (Pomerania) organised a skansen devoted to the archaeological rescue works on medieval burial mounds located in the forest near the village Lewino (the community of Linia). The skansen and the didactic track were arranged in August-September 2009.

Its official inauguration by Monika Rogozinska, Prof. Mariusz Ziolkowski (head of the above-mentioned Department and of the Center for Pre-Columbian Studies at the University of Warsaw) and Prof. Henryk Paner (FI '09) (head of the Archaeological Museum at Gdansk) took place on October 14th. On that occasion, Monika Rogozinska presented to the inhabitants of the community of Linia a multimedia show devoted to the achievements of the members of the Chapter and to the discoveries of Polish archaeologists who worked formerly at Kaszuby in the Andes.



In the windy, stormy weather took place an opening ceremony of the archaeological skansen in the forest near Lewino village at Kaszuby region (Pomerania. From the left:: Prof. Mariusz Ziolkowski (FI'02), Monika Rogozinska (FI'93), Henryk Paner (FI'09 – director of the Archaeological Museum at Gdansk (Credit: Archives of Monika Rogozinska)



Opening Ceremony. The Polish Chapter of The Explorers Club was one of the organizers of the new skansen (Credit :Archives of Monika Rogozinska)

11.) The Chapter cooperated in preparing the exposition “Archaeology of the Middle of the World” in the Archaeological Museum in Poznan devoted to pre-Columbian cultures in Ecuador. Its author was Prof. Mariusz Ziolkowski. Exposition piled antiques from collections of ambassador of Republic of Ecuador to Poland Fernando Flores, collection of Elzbieta Dzikowska (FI’93), some museums of Poland and Kon-Tiki Museum of Oslo as well. The exposition was presented in the Archaeological Museum in Poznan from October 16th to November 16th.

12.) In October 2009 Andrzej Ciszewski (FI’99) led a reconnaissance expedition of Polish speleologists to Iran. The terrain of the expedition activities was the region of Horamanat in the massif Atashgah (West Kurdistan). Some new caves were discovered; the most important of them are: Bire do Bareh (-137 meters) and Mar Atashkadeh (-115 meters). This huge area was recognized by the expedition only in a small part.



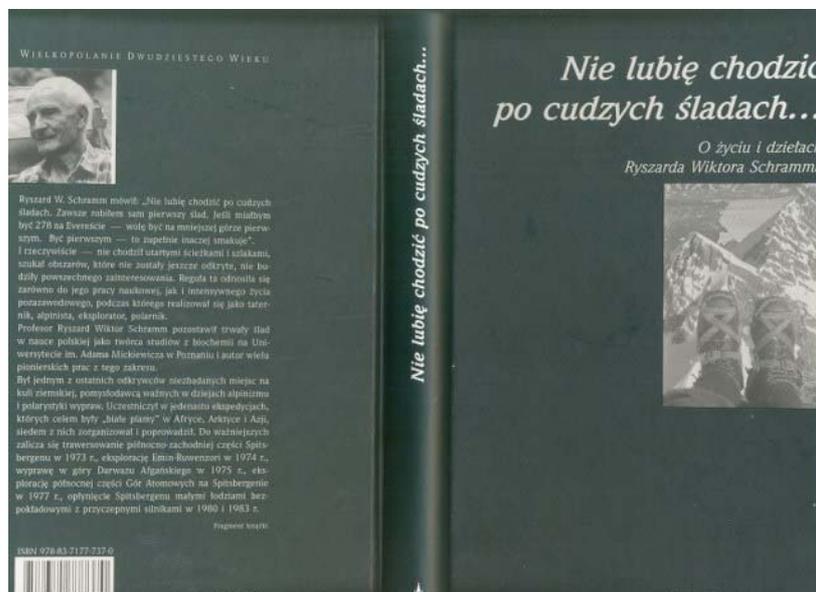
Andrzej Ciszewski, FI’99 (on the left) led a reconnaissance expedition of Polish speleologists to Iran (Credit Ewa Wójcik and Marcin Kubarek)

13.) “Treasures of Sudan – Rescue Action at Nubia Desert” was another meeting open to the public with the frame of the cycle “Secrets of Our Planet” which took place in Polonia House in Warsaw on December 3rd. The multimedia presentation was led by Prof. Henryk Paner (FI ’09) new member of The Explorers Club. It was devoted to the preservation of unique rock paintings and carvings in the region of the Fourth Cataract on the Nile, some 450 km north of Khartoum. The action was carried out under the pressure of time, as the area will be covered with water after the achievement of the dam on the Nile. In order to show its recognition, the Sudanese government gave to the Polish archaeologists a set of cut rocks with petroglyphs. 73 items transported to the Archaeological Museum in Gdansk are the start point of a unique collection which will show to the Europeans the African patrimony which is several thousand years old.



*Henryk Paner (FI'09) leader of the archaeological rescue expedition in Sudan
(Credit: Archaeological Museum in Gdansk)*

14.) The members of the Polish Chapter: Monika Rogozinska, Maciej Kuczynski and Prof. Tomasz Schramm took part in preparing the book devoted to Prof. Ryszard Wiktor Schramm (1920-2007) CO'79 organizer of the Chair of Biochemistry at Adam Mickiewicz University (Poznan), alpinist and polar explorer investigating uncharted territories in Asia and in Arctic, photographer, writer and poet. The book under the direction of Malgorzata Okupnik was published in 2009 by Wydawnictwo Poznanskie.



15.) The Polish Chapter was the honorary patron of the expedition to Nanda Devi East (7434 m) organized on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the first Polish expedition to the Himalayas. The expedition of 1939 was both a great success, and a tragedy as two of its four members perished under an avalanche. Mysterious fate of all members of the expedition has been defined as “The Course of Nanda Devi”
(Details in the article of Monika Rogozinska in a Polish daily, „Rzeczpospolita”:
<http://www.rp.pl/arttykul/2,295663.html>)

16.) Several lectures were given by members of the Chapter (it is mentioned some of them):

- Elzbieta Dzikowska (FI'93), presented in different cities of Poland her photo exhibition "The Smile of the World". She took part in the 15th anniversary of the Second Public Secondary School in Ostroleka named after Tony Halik FI'93, former Vice President of the Polish Chapter.
- Jacek Waclawski (FI'07) presented the film on the passing, under his command, of the North-West Passage during the International Congress of Heart Surgery (the domain he studies) in Warsaw.
- Jerzy Majcherczyk (FR'92) and Honorary Member of the Polish Chapter (he lives in the USA), canoeist, one of the discoverers of the Colca Canyon, presented in Poland a series of lectures on his expeditions to Colca Valley and Canyon. During the last one, he reached interesting archaeological sites. One of his lectures was presented to the students of the Center for Pre-Columbian Studies at the University of Warsaw.
- On August 8th Monika Rogozinska presented to the Traveller Club in the village Nowa Wies the lecture presenting the passions and activities of the members of the Polish Chapter of The Explorers Club.

17.) The Chapter was assisted in its activities by a number of friends:

- Law Office JKDI in Warsaw
- Mr. Jerzy Donimirski, owner of the hotels in the historical monuments: Hotel Grodek Kosciuszko Manor, Hotel Pugetow, Maltanski Hotel in Cracow and Korzkiew Castle (www.donimirski.com)
- Ms. Katarzyna Wroblewska the owner of the Accounting and Taxes Office ARGUS (Warsaw)
- Mr. Janusz Milewski, holder of the Volunteer Card No 1 of the Polish Chapter of the Explorers Club, helping us in our initiatives.

18.) The Chapter did not succeed in realizing some projects because of the lack of funds. For the same reason it is not able to finance its administrative work

Report was written by Monika Rogozinska