

**ODDZIAŁ POLSKI
POLISH CHAPTER**

Chair:
Mariusz Ziolkowski, Ph.D
Vice Chair:
Marcin Jamkowski, M.Sc
Elzbieta Wnuk-Lisowska, Ph.D.
Secretary:
Marta Zuchowska, Ph.D

THE EXPLORERS CLUB



POLISH CHAPTER
ODDZIAŁ POLSKI

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POLISH CHAPTER OF THE EXPLORERS CLUB ANNUAL REPORT

May 2015 – March 2017

Board of the Polish Chapter (elected on May 25th, 2015):

Chapter Chair: Prof. Mariusz Ziolkowski FI'02, mziolkowski@uw.edu.pl

Vice-Chapter Chair: Dr. Elzbieta Lisowska FI'03t, uzlisows@cyf-kr.edu.pl

Vice-Chapter Chair: Marcin Jamkowski FI'05, jamkowski@gmail.com

Secretary: Dr. Marta Zuchowska FI'14, marta.zuchowska@gmail.com

Audit Committee: Maciek Kuczyński CO'82, Tomasz Jakubiec FI'15, Prof. Tomasz Schramm FI'98

Currently there are 38 members of The Polish Chapter

Obituary



Dr. Bernard Koisar FI'93 (1942-2016) Geologist and speleologist, one of the founders of The Polish Chapter passed away on March 23. He participated in several world deepest cave expeditions and explored caves in Mexico, France, Iran, climbed in Spitsbergen and Hindukush. He was the co-discoverer of the first known quartzite caves on the Sarisariñama Plateau in Venezuela. We lost an expert researcher, experienced explorer and an honest, trusted companion.

2. New members



Tomasz Grzywaczewski MI'14, t.grzywaczewski@gmail.com

Journalist, author, and PhD candidate at the Chair of Public International Law and International Relations - University of Łódź, Editor-in-chief of “Koncept” magazine.

His accolades include:

- *Long Walk Plus Expedition* from Siberia to India in the footsteps of Polish POW who escaped from a Soviet Gulag during WWII,
- *Dead Road 1953-2013* scientific expedition to the Siberian Stalinist ghost-railway *Transpolar Mainline* (in cooperation with New York University),
- Member of *Vivat Polonia 2016* expedition (The Flag # 112) to Cameroon and Western Africa researching the history of the Polish explorer Stefan Szolc-Rogoziński.

As a journalist he collaborated with dozens of magazines, newspapers and news websites. He is the author of : *Przez Dzikie Wschód* and *Życie i śmierć na Drodze Umarłych*. His new book devoted to the post-soviet unrecognized states is going to be published in Summer 2017.



Dr. Eng. Benedykt Jerzy Hac FI'15 (Commander ret.) benedykt.hac@im.gda.pl

Actively interested in the seabed exploration, Dr. Benedykt Hac has been engaged for thirty years in search of wrecks and other artifacts proving human activity at sea. Thanks to his efforts, two wrecks of merchant vessels from the 18th century discovered in 2010 were investigated and their cargo was protected from damage. He also took part in the discovery of a Douglas A-20 Havoc plane wreck from World War II, which was lifted from the bottom of the Baltic Sea in 2014. After the conservation, the plane will be exhibited in the National Aviation Museum in Kraków, Poland.

He also organized and participated as co-organizer in four expeditions to the wrecks that have special significance for the history of Poland, especially the long going search for the wreck of the famous WWII Polish submarine ORZEŁ (THE EAGLE)



Tomasz Jakubiec FI'15 tomaszjakubiec@poczta.fm

White water kayaker and wild rivers explorer. He graduated from the University School of Physical Education in Kraków (as a swimming trainer) and has been always close to the water - for the last 20 years has been heavily involved in kayaking and education. Member of the famous "Bystrze" kayaking club (from which the conquerors of the Amazon and Colca Canyon originate) Tomasz was awarded twice with medals for the most active and influential kayaker in Poland. He organized many expeditions to the remote rivers in 4 continents: source of the Nile (1993), Colorado river (1994), Himalaya rivers in Nepal (2003), Colca Canyon, Peru (2006). Husband and proud father of three.



Dr. Patrycja Prządka Giersz FI'14, p.przadka@uw.edu.pl

Archaeologist, the Assistant Professor at the Faculty of „Artes Liberales“ - University of Warsaw, expert on South American archeology. Since 2002 directs Polish-Peruvian archaeological mission in north-western Peru. Co-discoverer of pre-Columbian royal mausoleum in Castillo de Huarmey with the first unlooted royal tomb of queens of Wari - an ancient civilization of South America predating Inca empire (ca. 600 - 1050 AD), voted as one of Top 10 Discoveries by the Archaeological Institute of America of 2013, and widely covered by National Geographic Magazine. Dr. Patrycja Prządka Giersz has written books and articles on archaeology, art, ethnohistory of the pre-Hispanic Latin America.



Anna Urbańska FI'14 and Jakub Urbański FI'14

fotodzieciaki@gmail.com

kuba.urbanski@gmail.com

Molecular biologists and photographers, Anna and Jakub Urbański have been travelling since 2005 to Papua (Indonesia) to record and document indigenous tribal cultures and to collect ethnic art. Authors of two photographic and ethnographic exhibitions in Museum of Asia and Pacific in Warsaw. In 2006-2011 they gathered and documented large collection of ritual objects, weaponry and jewelry and body adornments of Asmat, Korowai, Dani and Yali tribes. In 2008 they were awarded with Kolos award, prestigious Polish award for the travellers and explorers.

3. Annual Meeting of the Polish Chapter 2015 in Warsaw

The Polish Chapter of the Explorers Club in a meeting held in Warsaw on May 23rd, 2015 elected the new board.

The Chapter took the opportunity to thank Monika Rogozińska MED'93 - former Chapter Chair and co-founder of the Polish Chapter, for 22 years of work for us.

The Chapter's headquarter has changed address. With the kind decision of the prof. Marcin Pałys - Provost of the University of Warsaw, the Polish Chapter's new address is at the main campus of the university at the so called Kings Route (Krakowskie Przedmieście street).

The Chapter has also created a new website: www.theexplorersclubpolska.pl
So far it's in Polish, but the English version should be ready in April 2017.

During the last two years the Polish Chapter has been involved in many projects – part of them ran by the some members, part by the whole Chapter.

4. Annual Meeting of the Polish Chapter 2016 in Malbork



Wikipedia

The Polish Chapter of The Explorers Club had its annual meeting on March 18-19, 2016 in the medieval Castle of the Teutonic Order in Malbork (UNESCO World Heritage Site).

The participants heard the account of the latest work of members of the Chapter:
Prof. Mariusz Ziółkowski FI '02, *New Polish archaeological research in Latin America*,
Dr. Benedykt Hac FI '15, *Wrecks of the Southern Baltic Sea - from historical challenges to threats to the marine environment*,
Dr. Elżbieta Wnuk-Lisowska FI '03 and Andrzej Lisowski FI '03, *Iran of the ayatollahs - Iran of Iranians. From Zoroastrianism and Persepolis to Darband and Mrozek*,
Dr. Henryk Paner FI '09, *Flood in the desert; archaeological salvage studies as the Nile IV cataract in Sudan*,

Dr. Zdzisław Preisner FI '06 *The fascinating nature of New Zealand*,

Two films were also screened:

Roman Zajder MI '12 - *L-72 A Forgotten Tragedy* - about the sinking of the Polish warship ORP Kujawiak during WW II off the coast of Malta;

Marcin Jamkowski FI '05 - teaser of his film *Vistula Sunken Treasures* about the search for relics from the Polish-Swedish war of 1655, sunken in the Vistula river.

Special guests of the Chapter were:

José Bastante - Research Director of the National Park of Machu Picchu who delivered a lecture *The old and new discoveries at Machu Picchu*,

Piotr Chmieliński FN '98, MS, CIH who conquered Colca Canyon in 1981, and kayaked in 1985 the length of the Amazon. Piotr presented the reports of his most recent geographical explorations aimed at determining which one of the places mentioned in the literature is the real source of the Amazon.

An important element of the meeting was the gala dinner, organized for the Chapter by the Director of the Castle Museum, Mariusz Mierzwiński. After the event members took part in night-time exploration of the Castle.



Credit: Mariusz Ziółkowski

Members of the Polish Chapter during a night visit of the Castel of Malbork

It was established that another meeting at the Castle in Malbork would be held on April 1st, 2017. Guests from other Chapters of The Explorers Club will be most welcome.

5. The Benedictus of Poland Prize 2015 and 2016 editions

The Benedictus of Poland (Benedictus Polonus, Benedykt Polak) Prize is awarded annually to two individuals, a Pole and a foreigner, for outstanding achievements in exploration and research on Earth, in air and space, realized through the cooperation of Polish and foreign researchers. The Prize was founded in 2014 by the Polish Chapter of the Explorers Club, the Warsaw Scientific Society and the City and County of Łęczyca, to commemorate the 770 anniversary of the expedition of Franciscan monks: Benedictus from Poland and Giovanni da Pian del Carpine from Italy to the court of the Mongol Khan in Karakorum in 1245-1247, which is more than 25 years before Marco Polo began his famous journey. It was a journey to undecribed lands on maps



Credit: Monika Rogozińska

Founders of the Benedictus of Poland Prize in the Royal Castle in Łęczyca: members of the Polish Chapter of the Explorers Club (Monika Rogozińska MED'93, prof. Mariusz Ziółkowski FI'02 and Tomasz Grzywaczewski MI'14 as a guest) the Warsaw Scientific Society and the City and County of Łęczyca



Credit: Monika Rogozinska

XII century Collegiate Church of St. Mary and St. Alexius in Tum near Łęczyca – the place of Benedictus of Poland Prize ceremony (Benedictus Polonus stayed there at the beginning of his expedition in 13th century)



Credit: Przemysław Marynowski/Urząd Miasta Łęczyca

Professor Maria Krzysztof Byrski.** an outstanding expert and propagator of Indian culture, the Laureate of the I edition the **Benedict of Poland Prize in 2015



Credit: Przemysław Marynowski/Urząd Miasta Łęczyca

Professor Nikolai Grube,** German researcher in pre-Columbian cultures, promoter of German-Polish research and study on Mayan culture - the second Laureate of the **Benedict of Poland Prize in 2015

The Jury also decided to grant an **Honorary Diploma** to **Alexander Doba**, Polish adventurer, kayaker, conqueror and explorer, for crossing the Atlantic Ocean alone by canoe, using only his physical skills.



Credit: Przemysław Marynowski/Urząd Miasta Łęczycza

The award ceremony took place on June 12, 2015 In the 12th century Collegiate church in Tum. Bugle call at the beginning of the ceremony and Gregorian chants at the end



Credit: Przemysław Marynowski/Urząd Miasta Łęczycza

The Laureates of the Benedict of Poland Prize 2015 and Jury of the Prize



Credit: Przemysław Marynowski/Urząd Miasta Łęczycza

The dinner after the ceremony took place in the courtyard of the Royal Castle in Łęczycza.

The second edition of the Benedict of Poland Award – 2016 took place in the Collegiate Church in Tum on 3rd June.



Credit: Urząd Miasta Łęczycza

Laureates of the Benedictus Polonus Prize in 2016 r. (R to L) prof. Charles R. O'Dell, F. prof. Piotr Nawrot SVD, Cpt. Piotr Kuźniar

The laureates of the Benedict of Poland Award 2016:

Fr. professor Piotr Nawrot SVD, musicologist associated with the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan for discovering and promoting Baroque music of the Jesuit missions in Latin America.

Dr. Charles Robert O'Dell, American astronomer and astrophysicist (long term collaborator of the Hubble Heritage Project and Orion Nebula researcher) for his long-term cooperation with Polish scientists.

The Laudatory speeches were delivered by the Members of the Benedict of Poland Award Committee: prof. Paweł Haensel and prof. Maria Krzysztof Byrski.

The **Honorary Diploma** have received:

- the polar captain **Piotr Kuźniar**
- cave diver **Krzysztof Starnawski**.

Monika Rogozińska MED'93 and Marcin Jamkowski FI'05 spoke highly about the diploma winners.



Credit: Urząd Miasta Łęczycza

The 2016 gala ceremony was attended by many esteemed guests, among others prof. Piotr Gliński - Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland (left picture), Luis Adolfo Gómez Urdaneta - Venezuelan Ambassador, prof. Zbigniew Rau - Governor of the Łódzkie Voivodeship and honorary patron of Benedict of Poland Prize 2016.

The ceremony ended with the “Flaminae” choir performing Latinamerican Baroque music selected by Fr. prof. Piotr Nawrot SVD especially for this occasion.

The 2016 Benedict of Poland Awards were sponsored by NOVOL and Deutsche Bank.

The next edition of the Benedict of Poland Prize will be held on **June 9th, 2017**.

6. Annual Anthropological Lecture in Memory of Professor Andrzej Wierciński

Professor Andrzej Wierciński FI'93 (1930-2003) was one of the founders of the Polish Chapter . Annual Anthropological Lecture were held at the University of Warsaw.

The Sixth Lecture, on December 2nd, 2015, titled *Hindu Temple, a fire transformed into a stone or a territory of the real person (wastupuruszamandala)*, was given by Professor Maria Krzysztof Byrski (emeritus, University of Warsaw), Laureate of the Benedictus Polonus Award.

The Seventh Lecture, titled *The City of Ekhmaton and its people* was given by Professor Jerry Rose (University of Arkansas) - December 8th, 2016.

7. INTERNATIONAL SHIPWRECK FESTIVAL

The 6th FESTIVAL OF WRECK DIVING was organized in Łódź by Roman Zajder MI'12 and Peter Wytykowski MN'12, under the patronage of the Polish Chapter of The Explorers Club on February 13th, 2016. The event grew into one of the most important conferences on sunken boats and ships in Poland. It was filled with fabulous presentations of exploration projects, on the seas and rivers.

The lecturers came from Poland, Great Britain, USA, Italy and Malta. The audience reacted spontaneously to the lectures and very generously supported the Lodz Hospice for Children, putting up for bid at the festival ending auction memorabilia from various wreck-seeking expeditions. Once again, we broke the record. We collected for our young charges the amount of 9270 PLN! (ca 2440 USD). Words of gratitude go to our friend and colleague Marcin Jamkowski FI'05 - master of ceremonies, without whom the success of the festival and the record money collection for the kids in the hospice would've been impossible.



Credit: AdventurePictures.eu

Organizers and participants of the 6th edition of the Festival of Wreck Diving in Łódź. From left: Roman Zajder MI'12, Marcin Jamkowski FI'05, MariuszBorowiak (author of the book on ORP KUJAWIAK Polish warship) and Piotr Wytykowski MN'12

In 2017 festival has been moved from the city of Łódź to Warsaw and changed name. The 7th edition took place on February 11th, 2017 in the friendly and elegant halls of the University of Warsaw Old Library (BUW) Conference Centre. The new name of the event is The INTERNATIONAL SHIPWRECK FESTIVAL

The festival kept growing every year and the 2017 edition was no exception. It brought half thousand attendees few dozens of speakers and a big bunch of underwater equipment exhibitors. With best speakers from 9 countries (most of them preparing presentations exclusively for this occasion) Peter Wytykowski and Roman Zajder have taken the festival onto another—exceptional—level. Most established explorers, finest underwater archaeologists and leading technical divers gave presentation so the audience dived the oldest, the deepest, the most historically important shipwrecks on the planet. The new venue added a spectacular backdrop to the event. Established in 1816 the university is one of the most influential Polish academic centers. Among its students was for example pianist and composer Frederic Chopin. A banquet buffet and awards evening open to all and hosted at the nearby Potocki Palace was the icing on the cake.



Credit: Monika Rogozińska

Members of The Explorers Club from different countries were among lecturers, participants and organizers of the International Shipwreck Festival: Mark "Sharky" Alexander (USA), Danijel Frka (Croatia), Leigh Bishop (Great Britain), Monika Rogozińska, Roman Zaider, Peter Wytykowski, Marcin Jamkowski



Credit: Monika Rogozińska

Leigh Bishop (in the middle) offered his unique underwater picture for the charity auction which supports Children's Hospice

8. Vistula Sunken Treasures

For the last 7 years Marcin Jamkowski FI'05 has been involved in the project that combines exploration, archeology, filmmaking and historical research. The result might be seen this Fall at The Explorers Club Headquarter in New York when the premiere of the film is already planned.

The beginning of the project was when Marcin (now Vice-Chair of The Polish Chapter) met Hubert Kowalski, PhD, the Polish archaeologist, who found an exchange of 350 years old letters between the Polish King and the Mayor of Warsaw, capital city of Poland. Both officials were writing about the war with Swedes that ravaged Poland at that time and about the mysterious two boats filled with unknown cargo taken by the Swedish soldiers as a war booty from the Royal Palaces in Warsaw, Poland. They mentioned that the boats sunk into the Vistula river. No one knew what was the cargo, if it was recovered and where exactly the vessels sunk. But Marcin Jamkowski and Hubert Kowalski decided to start the expedition and look for the shipwrecks. Marcin decided to be onboard with the camera to make film about the search - starting on day one of the expedition.

Three years later, hundreds of hours of watching side-scan sonar screen later and many dives in the murky waters of the Vistula river later they finally found the trove!

For the next three seasons they recovered with the help of dozens of volunteers more than 20 metric tons of marble sculptures, decorations and architectural elements from the King's Residence with the Vasa king's cote of arms, cannons, cannon balls, wooden cannon wheels, armours and even... 250 marble floor tiles taken by soldiers from the castle!

Who and why would bring the floor tiles from Poland to Sweden in the middle of 17th century?! The unusual find pushed Marcin and the other filmmaker he works with - Konstanty Kulik to Sweden. They researched and filmed what else was brought then as a war booty over the Baltic Sea, and they looked for the places where the cargo found in Vistula River in Poland would end up if it had made its way to Sweden in 1656.

In February 2017 they filmed what is still left in Sweden from that war -- dozens of Polish books (including manuscripts of Copernicus), swords of Polish kings, church bells, altars, armours, chalices and even a small book with a Polish Christmas Carol, that survived only in Sweden and is unknown in Poland!

The film will tell the story of the successful treasure hunt, and show the incredible effort of the expedition and tell the unknown story of the works of art that travelled during the last war fought by Sweden. It will present the common European history and the the objects that belong to the world heritage.

During the filming in the Vasa Museum in Stockholm the team met with Ted Janulis, the president of The Explorers Club, who was on a tour. Few minutes later the place for the US film premiere was set - Club's Headquarter! Thank you Ted!



Credit: AdventurePictures.eu

(L>R) Dr. Hubert Kowalski, Justyna Jasiewicz and Marcin Jamkowski with the royal Vasa family coat of arms marble ornament recovered from the Vistula river in the middle of Warsaw



Credit: AdventurePictures.eu

(L>R) Dr. Hubert Kowalski and Marcin Jamkowski with the recovered cannon



© AdventurePictures.eu

Credit: AdventurePictures.eu

A floating crane employed to recover some 350 years old works of art



Credit: Marzena Hmielewicz/Arkana Studio

(L>R) Marcin Jamkowski and Konstanty Kulik filming books from Copernicus collections in Uppsala, Sweden. The books were robbed from Poland by Swedish invaders in 17th century

9. The world record for the deepest underwater cave – Hranicka Propast

For the last 4 years Marcin Jamkowski FI05 who is technical diver, underwater photographer, filmmaker and Vice-Chair of the Polish Chapter of The Explorers Club, have been following the cave diving expedition led by the legendary Polish cave diver Krzysztof Starnawski. The aim was to find the deepest underwater cave on the planet. Starnawski put one small cave in Czech Republic on his horizon 20 years ago—place known of the vast limestone layer thickness and hot springs—with hope it could be the deepest one. Its name is Hranicka Propast which literally means The Abyss Near Hranice, a town that is an hour drive from Polish border.

Marcin Jamkowski followed the team from the cave entrance to the water and through the exploration. The expedition begins with the rope assisted descend into the abyss, on the bottom of which one would find a murky lake covered with brownish leaves and rotting tree logs sticking out. The lake never freezes – it is the most upper end of the slightly acidic thermal waters system that gives it the temperature of 15 C all year round.

When Starnawski dove in the corridors and shafts that are beyond the lake Marcin Jamkowski followed him to the 60 meters of water. From there Starnawski –who is one of the best cave divers in the world—always dived alone. In the consecutive dives he explored new territory squeezing himself through the restrictions and reaching 181, 212, 236 and 265 meters deep in the series of complicated 10-hours-long dives.

With the National Geographic grant that they both got from the NG Expeditions Council, they were able to bring new member to the 20 people strong Czech-Polish team. That was Bartłomiej Grynda, remotely operated vehicle (ROV) constructor and pilot from Wrocław, Poland. With his help the expedition went to the depths that are beyond the current possibilities of the manned cave dives. Machine operated from the surface by the fiber optics cable, equipped with the compass, professional depth gauge (tested by the the state certification authorities), four HD cameras and a pack of very

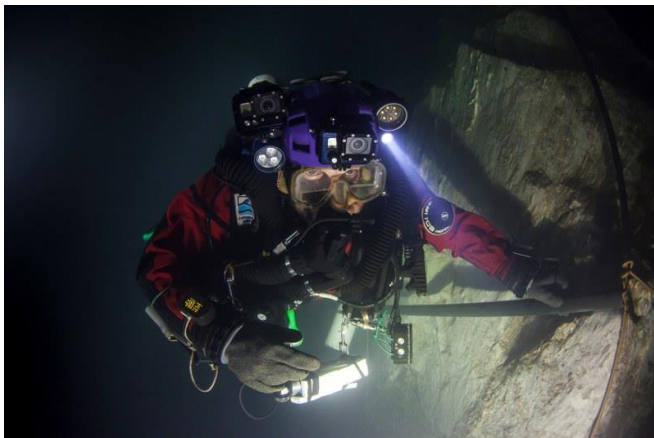
strong LED lights had one goal – go through the known shafts to reach the unexplored territory and push forward!

And so it did! 20 years of exploration of the unusual cave has given in September 2016 an incredible result – the world record for the deepest underwater cave – 404 meters!

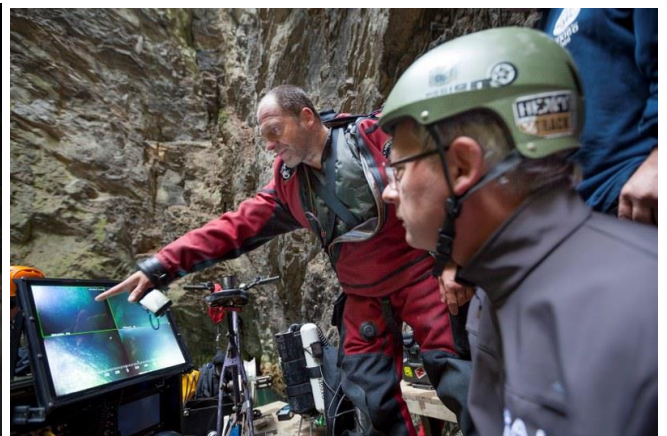


Credit: AdventurePictures.eu

Marcin Jamkowski before the dive in Hranicka Propast



Credit: AdventurePictures.eu



(left) Krzysztof Starnawski during the decompression after 200+ meters deep dive in Hranicka Propast cave. (right) Krzysztof Starnawski (L) and Bartłomiej Grynda navigating the ROV during the world record dive

10. Find the EAGLE!

ORP ORZEŁ (literally: Vessel of the Republic of Poland the EAGLE) was Polish torpedo submarine and a leading unit of the Orzeł type. She was a symbol of the Polish WWII fight against the Nazi German Navy and a hero of an incredible escape from the elaborate trap. When she went missing in one of the combat actions in the fog of war on the North Sea the legend and mystery only build up additional layers. Now the multi year project is launched by the Polish Chapter members to find THE EAGLE.

She was launched on 15 January 1938 at the Dutch shipyard Kon. Mij. De Schelde based in Vlissingen. Project of the ship had been developed through the contribution and expertise of specialists of the Polish Navy, and with the application of certain construction solutions adopted earlier in the HrMs O 16 of the Royal Dutch Navy. With a total length of 84 meters, the submarine's submerged displacement was 1,473 tons. Although her working depth was equal to 80 meters, in practice Orzeł could safely reach the extreme - depth of at least 100 meters. Her construction and diesel (an electric power train) allowed the ship to reach a speed of 19.44 knots when surfaced, and that of 8.9 knots when submerged. The basic armament of the ship consisted of 20 torpedoes launched from 12 tubes. The Orzeł's hull was an entirely welded structure, while all the ship's control panels were hydraulically operated, which was a sheer novelty. The shipbuilding of Orzeł was partially financed from resources gathered in a public fundraising campaign organized by the Maritime and Colonial League and a foundation for development of the submarine. On 2 February 1939 the ship was officially included in the fleet of the Polish Navy. As part of the Submarine Division, the Orzeł took part in the initial period of operations aimed at the defence of the Polish coast. After being interned by the Estonian authorities in Tallinn, the ship managed to escape. With no charts to rely on officers and sailors had to recall the maps from their memory. She continued her service on the Baltic Sea, after which she crossed the Øresund strait and sailed to Great Britain. On 8 April 1940, when heading away from the British Isles during a patrol on the North Sea, it sank the cargo ship Rio de Janeiro transporting German troops intended for the Operation Weserübung. The news sent by the Orzeł was one of the first signals proving that the Germans wanted to invade Norway.

The ship was lost with all her crew between May and June 1940 during a patrol on the North Sea. The cause of her loss remains unknown to this day.

"Fellow seamen. And so we suffered another loss; the ORP Orzeł and her crew were lost in battle against the enemy. The Captain and the crew have written one of the most glorious chapters in the history of Poland, and the legacy of their achievements will live on in history for ages to come. Generations of Poles that are to come, shall be raised on their legend. This legend will strengthen the unbreakable ties between the Nation and the Sea. Today, the ORP Orzeł is a symbol of the greatness of the Polish Nation, which cannot perish having Sons such as her Crew. May the memory of her Heroes live forever."

The Polish Naval Leaderships Order of the Day no. 32 of 13 June 1940

The search



Ceremony of depositing a wreath at a symbolic site of the sinking ship ORP Orzeł (R> L:) Jakub Janiszewski, Jarosław Nowak PhD, Dimitri Stavarakis, (with a wreath) Tomasz Stachura FI'13 - Head of the SANTI Find the EAGLE Project, Grzegorz Świątek, Dr. Benedykt Hac FI'15, Dr. Hubert Jando

SANTI Odnaleźć ORŁA (SANTI Find the EAGLE) is a long-range project aimed at finding the place where the wreck of the Republic of Poland's most famous submarine, the ORP Orzeł, and the sixty-three members of her crew rest, as well as at solving the mystery of why she sank. Another intention of the project is to revive the memory of the brave ship crews' heroic actions, and to highlight the role of the Polish Navy during World War II. What is also of great importance is to cultivate the memory of ordinary seamen members of the ship's crew, who, in the service of their homeland, performed acts of heroism unprecedented in the history of maritime wars.

SANTI Find the EAGLE is a private enterprise by a group of a dozen people professional divers, experts in the field of hydrography and history. Some of them are members of the Polish Chapter of The Explorers Club. The project involves successive surveys of the seabed in a region selected as the area where the ship could have been lost.



(third from left) Tomasz Stachura FI'13, (second from right) Dr. Benedykt Hac FI'15

11. The hunt for L72 KUJAWIAK

During the night of 16th June 1942 Polish destroyer of type HUNT II ORP KUJAWIAK was sunk by the German mine near Malta with the loss of 13 lives. 72 years later her shipwreck was discovered by the Polish expedition led by Roman Zajder MI'12 and Peter (Piotr) Wytykowski MN'12. Search and exploration expeditions got The Explorers Club Flags # 207 and #212



ORP KUJAWIAK

Lost off the coast of Malta on June 16, 1942, she lay undiscovered for 72 years. After collecting all available historical materials, *The Hunt for L72* expedition located the vessel using side scan sonar. The hunt class escort destroyer, ORP KUJAWIAK, fought under the Polish flag during WWII. Its last mission, Operation Harpoon, was to protect the convoy from Gibraltar. However, on June 16, 1942, the ship struck the mine and sunk on the east coast of Malta.

After the discovery of the wreck on Sept 22, 2014 and positive identification as ORP Kujawiak, the government of Malta decided to keep the position secret to prevent it from being explored in uncontrolled manner.



First side-scan sonar picture showing the wreck

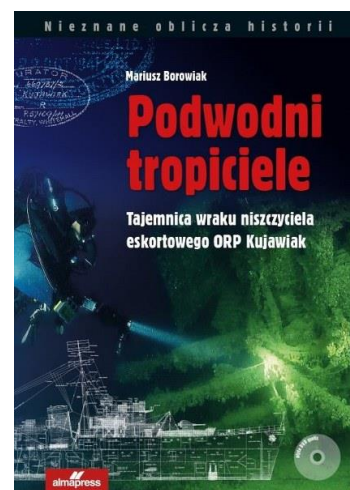
A team of explorers from the [Shipwreck Expeditions - Wyprawy Wrakowe](#) lead by Peter Wytykowski and Roman Zajder – members of the Polish Chapter of The Explorers Club reached their goal!

They met with the officials from Malta Superintendence of Cultural Heritage board and shared all the materials with dr Timmy Gambin from the University of Malta and Nathaniel Cutaraj from the Malta Ministry of Culture. Together they decided to continue the expedition to explore the wreck and assess the level of destruction of the ship. Ministry of Culture officially informed the President of the Republic of Poland, and the Malta Ambassador in Poland.

Award of Flag 207
Peter A. Wytykowski, MN '12 & Roman Z. Zajder, MI '12
The L72 - The Forgotten Tragedy
June 3, 2015 to June 17, 2015

The Explorers Club Flag is a symbol of courage and fidelity. The award of the flag is a significant accomplishment. Since 1918, the flag has been carried to all of the Earth's continents, as well as under the sea and into the stars. To date, 850 explorers have carried the flag on over 1450 expeditions. A select handful of the 222 Explorers Club flags have been framed and now decorate the Club house in New York. These include flags carried by Roy Chapman Andrews, Bob Bartlett, Thor Heyerdahl, Naomi Uemura, and miniature flags carried aboard the Apollo 8 and Apollo 15.

Your expedition will now become part of the rich history attached to this flag. Earlier expeditions include:



Expedition carried The Explorers Club Flag # 212. The success of Polish wreck hunters was portrayed by Mariusz Borowiak in the book "Podwodni tropiciele" (Underwater Hunters)



During the 3rd expedition to the wreck explorers wanted to find the ships bell, the heart of the vessel. They succeeded – on the last day, during the last dive! To honor the sailors killed divers also put the Polish flag on the wreck



The Polish Flag is flown on ORP Kujawiak wreck.



The members of the expedition founded the commemorative table in Malta dedicated to the crew of ORP KUJAWIAK



The team - (third from left) Peter Wytykowski MN'12, Mark "Sharky" Alexander (in the middle), Roman Zajder MI'12 (first from right) – members of The Explorers Club with The Flag # 212 in Malta

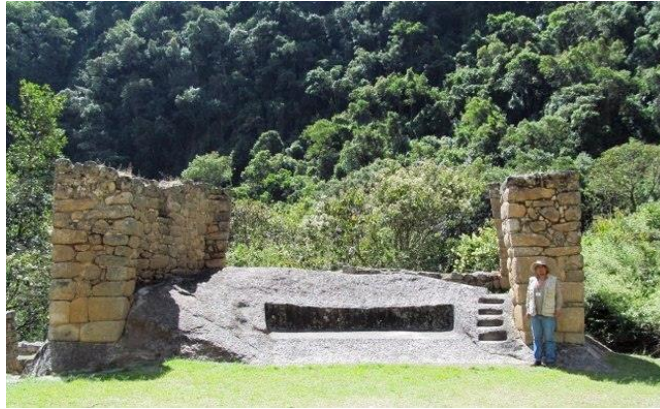
12. New discoveries at Machu Picchu (Peru)

In 2016, Mariusz Ziółkowski FI '02, started a new research project "The satellite site of Machu Picchu" (Peru), in collaboration with the staff of the Laboratory of 3D Laser scanning and modelling of the University of Technology of Wrocław (Poland), headed by Jacek Kościuk, D.Sc, architect.

The project is a continuation of a long term investigation conducted in Cusco by the Centre for Precolumbian Studies at the University of Warsaw and the Centre for Andean Studies at the University of Warsaw set up in 2008 in cooperation with the local partner Dirección Desconcentrada de Cultura – Cusco (Decentralised Management of Culture in Cusco – earlier called Instituto Nacional de Cultura – Cusco) and especially in collaboration with the department of this institution Parque Nacional Santuario Histórico de Machu Picchu (The National Park of the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu).

The Park covers an area of 32 592 hectares located in the valley the Vilcanota–Urubamba river in the region of Cusco, province of Urubamba (Peru) . Its central part is the well-known residential, agricultural and ceremonial complex of Machu Picchu listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Machu Picchu is connected by a complicated road network with numerous (ca. 60) archaeological sites, which performed different functions, including agricultural and ceremonial ones. Understanding what Machu Picchu was itself, what functions it performed and how it developed is mostly dependent on the research of its relation at least with the most important satellite complexes. Three sites were appointed for joint research in agreement with the Park Official Management, the Director, Fernando Astete Victoria and the Head of the Research Department of the Park, Jose Bastante Abuhabda, M.A. Inkaraqay/El Mirador. The site or more precisely one ceremonial structure with a specific function is situated on the north, quite steep, slopes of Huayna Picchu mountain. It also lies on the left bank of the Vicanota River around 200 m. above its bed.

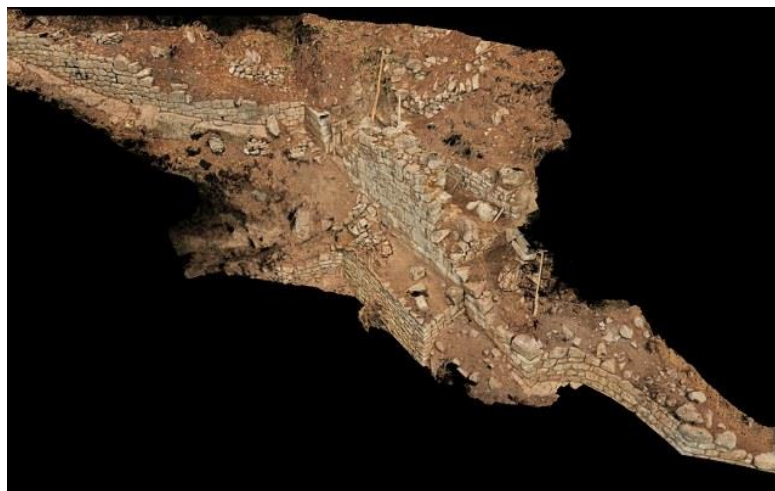
The research from 2013 and 2014 indicated that El Mirador/Incaracay was a very precisely planned astronomic observatory, which permitted the observation of the rising sun and the Pleiades' cluster. The stars might have been observed against the background of the nearby Yanantin mountain, which was most probably performed for calendar or fortunetelling functions. The object of the project research will be archaeological recognition of the structure's closest surrounding. The aim of the above is the full understanding of its ceremonial function and the preparation of a conservation report.



Credit: Mariusz Ziolkowski

Chachabamba - The sacred rock. Machu Picchu National Park

Chachabamba is situated on the left bank of the Vilcanota river within the Machu Picchu Park limits. It is connected with Machu Picchu city by the Inca trail running across the Wiñaywayna site and, what is most probable, with another trail running along the bottom of the valley, more or less in the same fashion as the present railway. The site was divided into three sectors the total area of which is 19075,63 m². Its central part is partly tooled granite rock and the architectonic structures were mounted around it. The rock, most probably, might have had the status of the so called “huaca”, which means “holy place”. The “huaca” is clearly oriented at Salcantay, one of the most important sacred Inca mountains (called “Apu” – The Lord). The presence of 14 “baños” (ritual baths) supplied with water by a complicated canal systems is a very interesting trait of this complex. Recognizing the “baños” functions is the object of a separate research project. However, the main research works described in this project is focused on the aforementioned rock and the buildings nearby.



El Mirador/Inkaraqay - slopes of Huayna Picchu. Photogrammetric image of the Inca ceremonial structure, elaborated for observational purposes (Photos and model Jacek Kościuk and his team)



Credit: Archives of the Centre of Andean Studies of the University of Warsaw at Cusco

Polish-Peruvian team at the one of the Mt. Salcantay lakes, 4250 m absl in July 2016

Mt. Salcantay lakes. The third area of studies are the lakes situated at the foot of the glacier covering Mt. Salcantay, one of the sacred mountains of the Incas. The lakes were connected with Machu Picchu by a trail network. The object of the research, including underwater archaeology research, will be answering the question whether the lakes were the site of sacrificial oblations for the sacred mountain.

This 2016 year's work in the lakes at the foot of the Salcantay was conducted by three specialists in the field of underwater archaeology - Magdalena Nowakowska, Maciej Sobczyk and diver-instructor Przemysław Trześniowski. The study included sonar measurements of three lakes located respectively at altitudes of 4250, 4460 and 4750 m asl, and diving in the first lake.

Archaeologists also carried out archaeological prospection in their vicinity. As a result, they managed to locate previously unknown archaeological sites, including rock engravings and a large, walled squares.

The work of the project is financed under grants of the Polish National Centre for Science (NCN) and by the Peruvian Ministry of Culture. The Andean Research Centre of the University of Warsaw in Cuzco, research station founded in 2010, provides organizational and logistical support to the researchers.

Those discoveries and works will be presented on the exhibition *Against the Sands of Time* in UNESCO Paris Headquarters (April 18-24, 2017). The Polish Chapter of The Explorers club is the principal organizer of the exhibition which is financed by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland.

13. Exhibition: *Poles on the Silk Road*, Warsaw, October 2016



Credit: Marta Żuchowska

The vernissage of the exhibition in the Museum of Asia and Pacific in Warsaw

In order to promote the knowledge about the history of exploration, Polish Chapter of the Explorers Club in cooperation with the Institute of Archeology, University of Warsaw and the Students Association for the Far East Archeology organized an exhibition “Poles on the Silk Road”. The exhibition was for the first time presented during the International Conference “Exchange of Goods and Ideas. Long Distance Trade in Asia in the 1st millennium AD”, which was held at the University of Warsaw on April 2016. Thanks to the financial support of the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education the exhibition was then shown to the wider public in the Museum of Asia and Pacific at Warsaw in October 2016.

The aim of this project was to present the portraits of Poles, who had contributed to development of contemporary knowledge of the Asian cultural heritage as well as the phenomenon of the Silk Road. A long list of Polish scientists and explorers was portrayed on the exhibition, among them:

- Benedictus Polonus (born ca 1200 – died past 1252), a Polish Franciscan monk, participant together with Italian Franciscan monk Giovanni da Pian del Carpine in the diplomatic mission send by the Pope to the court of the Mongol Khan in Karakorum in 1245-1247, 25 years before Marco Polo famous journey.

- Jan Mikołaj Smogulecki (1610 – 1656, jesuit, astronomer). In 1644, with a group of other Jesuits, he travelled to China via Lisbon and Java. Smogulecki has become a teacher of the talented mathematician, Xue Fengzuo, who helped him to transfer the achievements of western knowledge to China. Polish Jesuit was the first person who has translated European astrological dissertations into Chinese. Not only did he follow academic writings of Chinese scholars, but he also studied thoroughly Far Eastern achievements in the matter of mathematics and astronomy. Finally, as a first person in China, Smogulecki presented a logarithmic calculus using which one was able to estimate the dates of forthcoming solar eclipses.

- Michał Boym (1612 – 1659) the second Polish Jesuit to visit China. One of the Pioneers of European Sinology. His most popular text about Chinese nature is *Flora Sinensis*, which he wrote mainly during his visit to Hainan Island and further travels. The *Flora Sinensis* was published in Europe in 1656.

And 11 more distinguished Polish scientist, travelers, explorers.

14. Visit

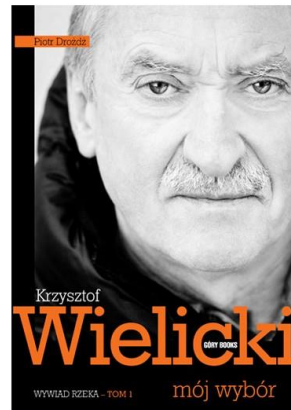
The Explorers Club Honorary President Captain Don Walsh, Ph.D, gave a lecture in the Wojanow Palace in the south-west part of Poland in February 2016. He visited Wrocław, then travelled to Antarctica. Monika Rogozińska MED'93 came from Warsaw to meet him and to guide an exclusive friendly sightseeing tour of the city.



Credit: Monika Rogozińska

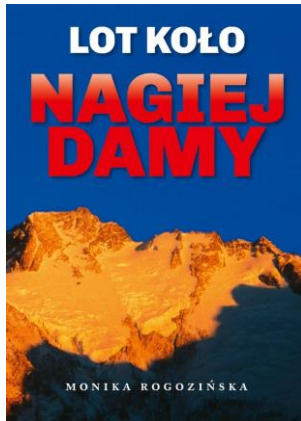
Monika Rogozińska MED'93 and Cpt. Don Walsh – the Honorary President of The Explorers Club in Wrocław

15. Humanitarian acceptance and other activity some of members of the Polish Chapter



Krzysztof Wielicki FI'97 (the first summiter of Everest in winter, he reached summits of 14 x 8000 meters peaks) supported UNICEF project to collect funds for vaccines to Nepali people after an earthquake.

The book *Mój wybór* (My choice) by Krzysztof Wielicki and Piotr Drózdź was awarded in the category of Memoires and Autobiographies by the Jury of Mountain Festival in Łądek Zdrój.



The book *Lot koło Nagiej Damy* (*The Flight alongside the Naked Lady*) by Monika Rogozińska reached ex aequo the same award of the same Festival in Łądek Zdrój

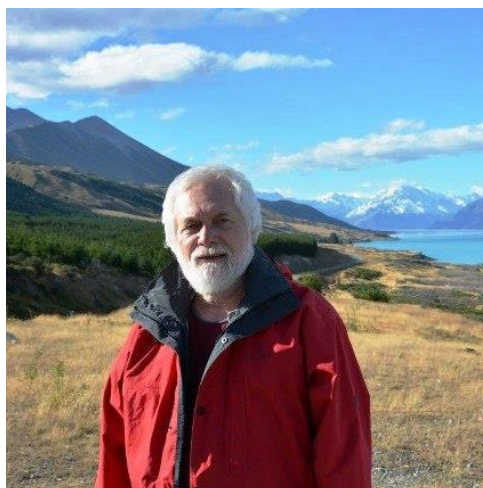


Dr. Małgorzata Dziwięcka FI'11 (second from left) with her adopted Bolivian daughter Antonina Maria (second from right) on the Lake Titicaca

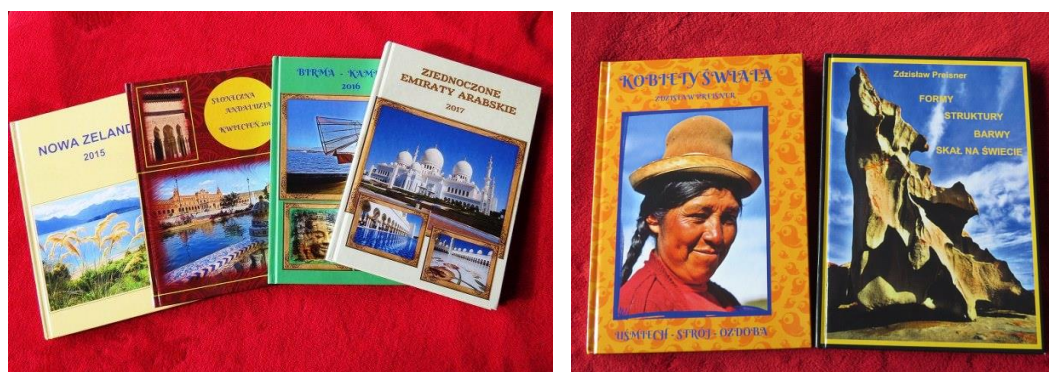
Dr. Cecylia Małgorzata Dziwięcka FI'11, organized sponsorship and made studies possible for the first student from the Kingdom of Tonga in Poland, Salise Andrew Faivailo. He completed a year study of the Polish Language at the University of Wrocław, now studies Geography at the University of Wrocław and is a student of guitar class at the High Music School in Wrocław (2015)

The second edition of her book *Life & Times of Ngamiland. The Story of Maun. Botswana* was published. It is enriched in photographs, added a chapter Walking Safari with Willy Phillips.

In 2016, Dr. Dziwiecka worked voluntary with adults with intellectual disabilities, at the L'Arche Kenya, Nyahururu.



Zdzisław Preisner FI '05 last two years explored several countries in Asia and Latin America. He prepared limited edition photo albums from New Zealand, South Spain: Andalusia, Birma and Cambodia, and United Arab Emirates. The next two books are related with two themes: *Women of the world* - smile, local outfit and jewelry and *Forms, structures, and colors of the rocks of tthe world* his favourite interest of last 40 years is visiting geological and geomorfological landscapes, especially rock formations. He just has published new edition photo album *Peru*.



Books by Zdzisław Preisner 'FI'05

16. Acknowledgements:

The Polish Chapter of The Explorers Club would like to express its gratitude to the Instytut Adama Mickiewicza (Adam Mickiewicz Institute) for helping to send a delegate of the Polish Chapter to the Annual Meetings of The Explorers Club and ECAD 2017 in New York.

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and Marcin Jamkowski FI'05*