



Dear All at Frankfurter Verband

This is our last newsletter. With this issue we would like to say goodbye to the volunteers, coordinators and other members of the project teams who have worked so hard to make this project a success. The last two years have been an ongoing lesson about the history and people living in Frankfurt but also about ourselves and our city. We have learnt to see ourselves from a different perspective, through different eyes.





Grundtvig Senior Volunteering Project "Frankfurt and Krakow invite seniors" August 1, 2012 – July 31, 2014

This newsletter is a summary of Wera and Melanie's visit who, after spending three weeks in Kraków, know it all by heart and can safely be tour guides for foreign visitors and for some Cracovians as well. Thank you Wera and Melanie for wonderful three weeks and do come by.



Lots of love, Ola



Podgórze

Podgórze is a district of Kraków. It is situated on the right bank of the Wisła river, near Lasota Hill. The name Podgórze roughly translates as the base of a hill.



The town's development was promoted by the Austria-Hungary Emperor Josef II, who in 1784 granted it the city status, as the Royal Free City of Podgórze. In the years leading to the return of Polish independence, the city council made Podgórze again a part of Greater Kraków.

The oldest man-made structure in Podgórze is Krakus Mound on Lasota Hill, believed to be the grave of the legendary prince Krakus. It is the largest prehistoric mound in Poland.



The Austrian bridge named Carl's Bridge linking Podgórze with the rest of Kraków across the Wisła was built in 1802 and it is used until now. Very interesting is the historic part of Podgórze with the triangular market square and impressive St. Joseph Church.



Another part of Podgórze is Krzemionki, with its green hills. There is also a World War II quarry called Liban. Krzemionki also includes the site of the Nazi Kraków Ghetto and the factory of Oscar Schindler who saved the lives of nearly 1200 Jews.

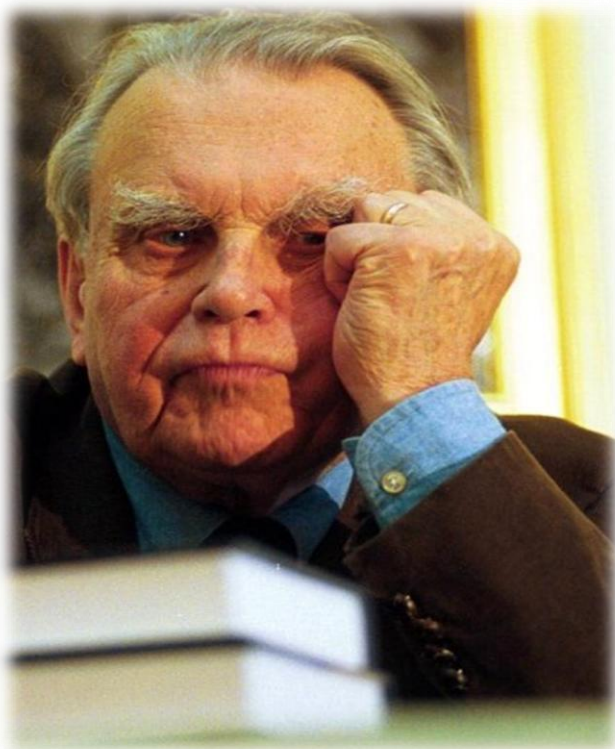


There are a lot of interesting museums and places where tourists should go.

Bogusia Obrocka

Nobel prize laureate - Czesław Miłosz

Polish Poet, prose writer and translator of Lithuanian origin and American citizen. Czesław Miłosz was born on 30th June 1911 in the village of Setenia on the border between two Lithuanian historical regions of Samogita and Aukstatija in Central Lithuania (later part of Russian empire). He was a son of Alexander Miłosz a civil engineer and Veronica Kunat. His brother, Andrzej Miłosz, was a Polish journalist, translator of literature and of film subtitles.



After graduating from Sigismund Augustus Gymnasium in Vilnius, he studied Law at Stefan Batory University, and in 1931 he travelled to Paris to his cousin, Oscar Miłosz, a French poet.

His first volume of poetry was published in 1934. Miłosz wrote all his poetry, fiction and essays in Polish and he translated the Old Testament Psalms into Polish.

The Second World War Miłosz spent in Warsaw where among other things, he attended underground lectures by Polish philosophers and historians of philosophy.

After the Second World War, Miłosz served as cultural attaché of the People's Republic of Poland in Paris. In 1953 he received the European Literature Prize. In 1960 he emigrated to the United States and in 1970 he became a US citizen. In 1961 he began to work as a professor in Polish Literature in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature at the University of California, Berkeley. In 1978 he received the Newstadt International Prize of Literature, he retired that same year, but he continued teaching at Berkeley.



In 1980 Miłosz received the Nobel Prize in literature. At that time, his works were banned in Poland by the communist government. Thanks to the Nobel Prize, many Poles learnt about Miłosz and his work. When the Iron Curtain fell, Miłosz was able to return to Poland, first for a visit and later to live in Kraków. He divided his time between his home in Berkeley and his apartment in Kraków.

In 1989 Miłosz received the US National Medal of Arts and honorary doctorate from Harvard University. Miłosz's most well-known book is "The Captive Mind" which has been described as one of the finest studies of the behavior of intellectuals under a repressive regime. In the novel "The Issa Valley" from 1981 he told about his childhood.

Miłosz is an honorary member at Israel's Yad Vashem memorial to the Holocaust, as one of the "Righteous among the nations". A poem of Miłosz appears on the Gdańsk memorial of the protesting shipyard workers who were killed by government security forces in 1970.

Miłosz's books and poems have been translated into English as well as other languages.

Miłosz died in 2004 at his Kraków home at the age of 93. His body was buried at Kraków's historical Skalka church.



Basia Śladowska

Underground Market Square in Kraków

Kraków Market Square is one of the largest in Europe. Kraków was located on the Magdeburg law in the thirteenth century. The plan of the main market as a square of a side of 200 meters has played a significant role in the life of the city. Over the centuries, the market has gone through various metamorphoses. The market was a place of historic moments for the Polish Kingdom.



If you are on the Market in Kraków I suggest you should visit the museum under it to which we enter in the Cloth Hall. The tourist route “following the European identity of Kraków” uses modern means of communication to transport us to past times. At the beginning of our city history, the Market was a place of political and judicial importance, here from the early Middle Ages was conducted trade with the merchants from distant parts of the world, the products manufactured on site and minerals were sold in this place. Kraków was the place where roads from all over Europe met.

The exhibition in the underground museum creates a special theater of life of inhabitants and encourages the study of the history of our city. In the showcases there are a number of exhibits: minerals, coins, seals, household appliances, weapons, toys and jewellery.



The exhibition allows you to explore the city's urban layout changes and how they were carried through the centuries, the construction of houses, churches, streets, the place of trade stalls. You can also learn about the organizations of craftsmen who also had to defend the city.

The history of Kraków shown in the underground museum is engaging and well worth seeing.

Maryla Pająk

Festival Life in Kraków

Contemporary Kraków is not only a city of museums and monuments, but also a vital centre for festival life. Annually, nearly 100 festivals are held here including about 50 festivals of international importance, such as the *Jewish Culture Festival* (since 1990), *Kraków Film Festival* (since 1961), *Music in the Old Kraków International Festival* (since 1975), *International Print Triennial* (since 1966), and *Festival of Street Theatres* (since 1988). Every year new projects emerge like *Sacrum Profanum* (since 2003), *Opera Rara*, *Misteria Paschalia Festival* (since 2004), *Festival of Polish Music* (2005) presenting the works of Polish music in world's greatest performances, and the *Festival of Nations/ Dedications* (2002). There is also the "Divine Comedy" *International Theatre Festival*, a kaleidoscope of nine days of theatre, like Dante's nine circles, a great stage festival – a competition of performances, a showcase and an overview of premieres and debuts in one.



Let us mention a few more festival events: the *Polish Music Festival* and the *Unsound* – a musical journey from the Baroque to the 21st century, impressive and attractive for thousands of fans. The *Unsound* was established in 2003 in Kraków as a festival of progressive music. In the beginning an underground event, in recent years has taken up greater swing, receiving common acknowledgement. Kraków, a city of writers, also has the country's largest book fair, as well as great literary festivals. The *ArtBoom Festival* boldly introduces the latest art into the historical fabric of the ancient centre. *International Festival of Independent Cinema Off Plus Camera* –the great event of world cinema began in Kraków in recent years. It is a festival that brings original, intriguing and often difficult to receive pictures that are chosen at world film events, closer to the viewers. The organisers have been able to accomplish the almost impossible – connecting niche cinema with mass interest. *Off Plus Camera Festival* and the *Film Music Festival* attract cinema lovers, who soon return here to shoot their next films.

Another interesting cultural event is the *St John's Fair* which, resembling the past, includes wandering comedians, tumblers, troubadours, loiterers, merchants and stall-keepers from distant lands to take part in the *St John's Fair* Krakow ed within the domain of Wianki in Kraków. Wianki in Kraków is one of the biggest Polish outdoor events, relating to ancient pagan rituals. It recently changed its character. The new formula of the event combines the tradition of Midsummer Night with concerts of world format.



Kraków is the Polish cradle of jazz. Its traditions in the city date back to the time before the Second World War. It is in Kraków every year that the oldest Polish festival takes place – *Krakowskie Zaduszki Jazzowe (Cracow Jazz All Souls' Day Festival)* – the first festival was held in 1954. Here in the 60's there was the cult club Helikon, where Krzysztof Komeda and Zbigniew Seifert performed, and Tomasz Stańko first encountered jazz. Today, excellent, improvised music can be heard in Alchemia, where the *Kraków Jazz Autumn* was initiated. You can also listen to good jazz in: Piec Art, Mile Stone Jazz Club (located at the Qubus Hotel) and the Harris Piano Jazz Bar.

The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity Finals is also worth recognizing. In January, Kraków will traditionally join the charity, which has been permanently written down in the Polish calendar. *The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity* has become a unique social impulse, for years at the beginning of the year engaging Poles in the charitable work of helping the most needy and helpless: sick children and the elderly. *WOW!night Music Square Session* is an unusual ending to the year – on 31 December, the Main Market in Kraków transforms into the biggest club scene in Europe with a dance floor of an area of almost 10 thousand square metres. On stage stars of club and electronic music, as well as the best DJs, perform.



The new cyclical events such as the *Kraków Nights* are also very popular. In 2007 the *Theatre Night* was introduced for the first time. It was modeled after the idea of the *Museum Night*, hugely popular in Europe. On a June night theatrical projects are presented not only in theatres but also on specially prepared open-air stages in the open space to an audience of over 40,000 spectators every year. In 2008 the *Sacral Night* was introduced for the first time, while the *Poetry Night* had its inauguration in 2009.



From the diversity of Kraków's festivals and sporting events we have chosen just a few examples to share, but remember that at any time of the year Kraków's cultural life is full of events. It is possible for several large festivals to be held at the same time here. Kraków is a city where there is always something to do. There is plenty to choose from! A detailed programme of Kraków's events can be found at the portal www.karnet.krakow.pl

Ewa Soja

Nowa Huta

At the beginning, Nowa Huta was designed to be a separate town, it is the youngest quarter of Kraków now.

It has steeling traditions which are several centuries long. On its territory monuments from the Celtic period were found. The steel manufacturing began in the first millennium B.C. On the banks along the Vistula river, “dymarki”, primitive smelting furnaces were found.

Another stage of metal industry is connected with the settling of the Cistercian Order in Kraków in the 13th century. The Cistercians were pioneers of metal industry in Poland. On their premises, they built the first works of copper in Poland. These works existed until the end of the 14th century.

The beginning of present day Nowa Huta dates back to 1947 when the decision of building a steel factory and a new town around it was taken. It was the largest industrial complex in Poland. Its area occupied a few dozen square kilometres.



After being destroyed during the World War II, Poland needed the factory but the localization of such a huge steel complex on a very fertile land awoke many controversies. The decision was political. Polish authorities wanted to create a town for workers which aimed to reduce the influence of intellectual and conservative inhabitants of Kraków in this place. The founders of Nowa Huta wanted it to be an atheistic town without churches. Most of Nowa Huta builders accepted the ideas of the new ideology since it brought a huge social and civilizational advancement to most of them. But at the same time these people in majority came from villages that traditionally were deeply religious. They simply could not imagine their lives without churches. New authorities in Poland did not like their attitude. In 1952 riots started in the streets of Nowa Huta. There were wounded and killed people on both sides but the workers were firm. The authorities gave in to their demands and in 1956 they allowed to build a church in the neighbourhood.



In early 1980s, the working class in Nowa Huta stood against the authority again, although the people called themselves workers and peasants. Industrial complex in Nowa Huta became one of the main strongholds of the Solidarity movement, the first independent social movement in the block of socialist countries. During the Martial Law introduced in 1981, there were often demonstrations against the authorities.

Nowadays, Nowa Huta has become a historic town, because the art of the socialist realism period is valued as a cultural phenomenon, not only as an effect of political propaganda. Maciej Miezia, a historian, a great lover of this quarter just writes: "The buildings of the Central Square so clearly tied with Renaissance and classicistic patterns, awake admiration of foreigners which come here from behind the ocean as well as from behind the Rhine". Nowa Huta lovers elaborated 11 routes thanks to which we can discover the history of this town.



Maryla Kacprzycka