

**BOOK INSTITUTE**



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**INFORMATION  
BOOKLET**

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**INFORMATION  
BOOKLET**

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# Who we are

The Polish Book Institute is a national cultural institution established by the Minister of Culture on 1st December 2003 to promote Polish literature and its heritage around the world as well as to popularise Polish books and reading in Poland.

For almost two decades, **the Institute has been supporting: translators of Polish literature** - to translate as many interesting Polish books as possible into their native languages, **foreign publishers** - to publish their translations, **organisers of literary events** from all over the world - to invite Polish authors to visit them. Thanks to the financial support of the **©Poland Translation Programme**, hundreds of translations of works by Polish authors have been published abroad, among them Polish Nobel Prize winners: Henryk Sienkiewicz, Władysław Reymont, Czesław Miłosz, Wisława Szymborska, and Olga Tokarczuk, acclaimed classic authors: Zbigniew Herbert, Janusz Korczak, Gustaw Herling-Grudziński, Józef Mackiewicz, Witold Gombrowicz, and Stanisław Lem, as well as contemporary authors: Andrzej Sapkowski, Marek Krajewski, Bronisław Wildstein, Joanna Siedlecka, Wojciech Chmielarz, Wiesław Myśliwski, Szczepan Twardoch, Mariusz Szczygieł, Małgorzata Rejmer, and many others.

Translations of Polish books co-financed by the Polish Book Institute find their way to the finals

of the prestigious American translation awards, namely Best Translated Book Award and ALTA's (American Literary Translators Association) National Translation Award.

The Institute also **co-finances translations of Polish books for children**, which enjoy great interest and recognition abroad. They win the most important industry awards (Polish authors and publishers are almost always awarded at the world's most important event in this field, the International Children's Book Fair in Bologna), they are presented at prestigious exhibitions and, thanks to translations and foreign editions, they reach little readers in almost all corners of the world.

Thanks to the **pro-reading campaign "Small Book – Great Man"** implemented since 2017, the Polish Book Institute informs about the benefits of reading together as a family from the first months of a child's life.

As part of this campaign, young parents in maternity wards receive unique Reading Layettes containing the book *Pierwsze wiersze dla...* ("First Poems for..."), pre-schoolers are encouraged to read and visit public libraries through the publication *Pierwsze czytanki dla...* ("First Readings for..."), and first year pupils enter the world of adventure with

literature through the publication *Pierwsze abecadło* ("First ABC").

The Polish Book Institute reaches secondary school students and adults with pro-reading messages through the **Read PL campaign and the accompanying "Hunt Your Book" programme**, as part of which more than 500,000 books have been read since 2013.

The Polish Book Institute is also the creator of **Book Discussion Clubs**, which have been operating since 2007, and whose aim is to promote literary culture and reading.

The Polish Book Institute also supports public libraries through the implementation of a **funding programme called Library Infrastructure**, whose strategic goal is to transform municipal libraries in localities of up to 50,000 inhabitants into modern centres of access to knowledge and culture. The programme is implemented as part of the National Reading Development Programme and responds to the need to radically improve the condition of public libraries in Poland.

To meet the needs of libraries, the **MAK+ cataloguing system** was developed and implemented at the

Institute in 2010, accommodating for all operations related to running a public library.

For 13 years, the Polish Book Institute has administered funding programmes of the Ministry of Culture, National Heritage and Sport in the field of literature, and since April 2010, it has been the publisher of the oldest and most distinguished Polish cultural magazines, such as "Nowe Książki", "Twórczość", "Literatura na Świecie", "Teatr", to name a few.

The Polish Book Institute runs a website dedicated to its activities. Every day at [instytutksiazki.pl](http://instytutksiazki.pl), you can find a selection of the latest literary news, biographies of contemporary Polish authors, interviews with writers and translators, a database of translators, addresses of publishers and literary agencies - everything is available in both Polish and English. The Institute also runs an English-language website dedicated exclusively to foreign publishers, translators, and all those interested in Polish literature: [booksfrompoland.pl](http://booksfrompoland.pl).



# Letter from the Director of the Polish Book Institute

Dear Readers,

The Polish Book Institute is an institution which, since 2003, has been implementing the policy of the Polish state to strengthen the presence of Polish culture, recorded and presented in native literature. Nowadays, this policy combines the idea inherent to its creation, i.e. the promotion of the value of Polish literature at home and abroad as well as the promotion of reading in response to contemporary challenges posed by rapid technological development and the (r)evolution of social relations.

One of the most important tasks facing the Polish Book Institute is indeed the promotion of reading. We are aware that its condition is still not satisfactory and that changing this situation requires bold and far-reaching actions that have not been taken until recently. This is why we are proud to have launched the nationwide pro-reading campaign "Small Book – Great Man" in 2017. Thanks to it, almost every newborn baby receives their first book in hospital, and pre-schoolers visiting public libraries get a special set of reading materials. Since 2020, a new book has been in the hands of first year pupils. These activities are accompanied by an intensive information campaign showing the benefits of reading together as a family from an early age.

In addition, since 2011, we have acted as operator of long-term government programmes supporting the development of reading, including the Library Infrastructure programme, which has helped to build or renovate as well as equip several hundred libraries in the country.

The above-mentioned activities are of a comprehensive nature and are necessary for not only significant but mainly permanent changes to take place in the area of readership in Poland. We recognise that this is an investment in children's future, their professional success, as well as in good family and community relationships. Reading is the development of a human as a citizen, an absolutely key area and mission of the Polish state that requires special attention and conscious action.

We are pleased that every year, foreign publishers are more and more interested in the Copyright Poland Translation Programme, thanks to which many translations of Polish literature into foreign languages have been published. In 2019, the Polish Book Institute has also expanded the offer of the Translators' Collegium scholarship programme, offering translators of Polish literature study stays not only in Krakow, but also in Warsaw, in Tadeusz Konwicki's flat-studio.

These are, of course, only some of the undertakings and initiatives carried out by the Polish Book Institute. I hope that this publication will bring its readers closer to our activities and their effects.

*Dariusz Jaworski*  
Director of the Polish Book Institute

# The Polish Book Institute's key projects

## “SMALL BOOK – GREAT MAN”

One of the largest campaigns of its kind in the world, aimed at children ages 0-3, 4-6, and first year pupils. A different book was prepared for each group, as well as a booklet for parents, informing about the role of reading in children's lives at different stages of their development.

The campaign is accompanied by intensive activities using various types of media (TV, Internet, radio, and outdoor).



## “READ PL” AND

## “HUNT YOUR BOOK”

The campaign promoting reading among adults and secondary school students, during which, free of charge, you can read e-books and listen to 12 audiobooks by recognised and popular Polish and foreign authors.

The aim of the campaign is to invigorate reading in a modern way among people who are less and less inclined to reach for paper books and who actively use smartphones instead.

C Z Y T A J  PL



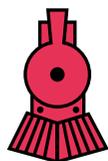
upoluj  
swoją  
książkę

# The Polish Book Institute's key projects

## LIBRARY INFRASTRUCTURE 2016-2020

Support for public libraries in rural, urban-rural, and urban municipalities of up to 50,000 inhabitants through subsidies for tasks connected with renovation, reconstruction, expansion, and construction as well as equipping library buildings.

The programme is implemented as part of the National Programme for the Development of Reading and responds to the need to radically improve the condition of public libraries in Poland.



**NARODOWY  
PROGRAM  
ROZWOJU  
CZYTELNICTWA**

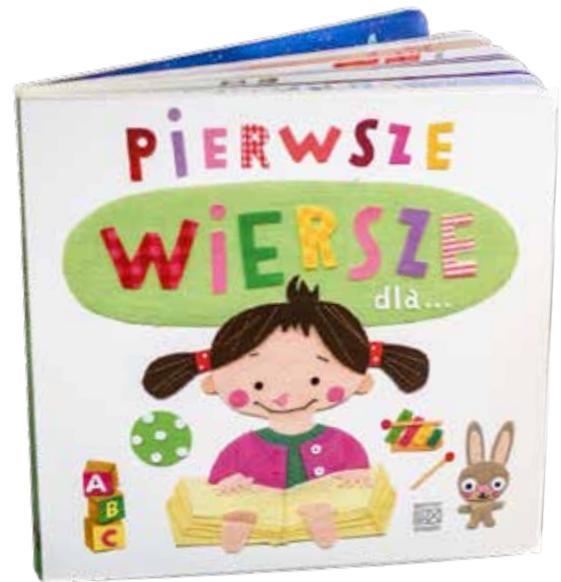
## COPYRIGHT POLAND

Promotion of Polish literature abroad through financial support of translation, copyright licenses, and printing costs.

As part of the Translation Programme, there have been published translations of Polish classics (Mickiewicz, Krasiński, Wyspiański, Prus, Norwid, Sienkiewicz), the most outstanding poetry (Herbert, Miłosz, Szymborska), 20th century literature (Herling-Grudziński, Korczak, Gombrowicz, Mackiewicz, Mroźek, Lem, Piasecki, Witkacy, Żeromski), and contemporary recognised authors (including Tokarczuk, Twardoch, Myśliwski, Libera, Sapkowski, Wildstein, Dukaj, and many others).

**PROGRAM  
TRANSLATORSKI  
© POLAND**

# ACTIVITIES IN POLAND



## PRO-READING CAMPAIGN "SMALL BOOK – GREAT MAN"

One of the largest campaigns of its kind in the world, which aims to highlight the benefits of reading together as a family from the first months of a child's life. After all, reading starts from the cradle, long before the day a child begins to put letters together themselves. Well-chosen books develop their mind and emotions, shape linguistic competence, root them in culture, and stimulate their imagination. Reading together may become not only a great pleasure, but above all a wonderful opportunity to build closeness and strong and lasting family ties.

### First Poems for... – children aged 0-3

Approximately 32,000 babies are born in Poland each month\*. In 2017, the Polish Book Institute began distributing Reading Layettes to newborn babies in hospitals. More than 380 hospitals nationwide are participating in the Institute's campaign.

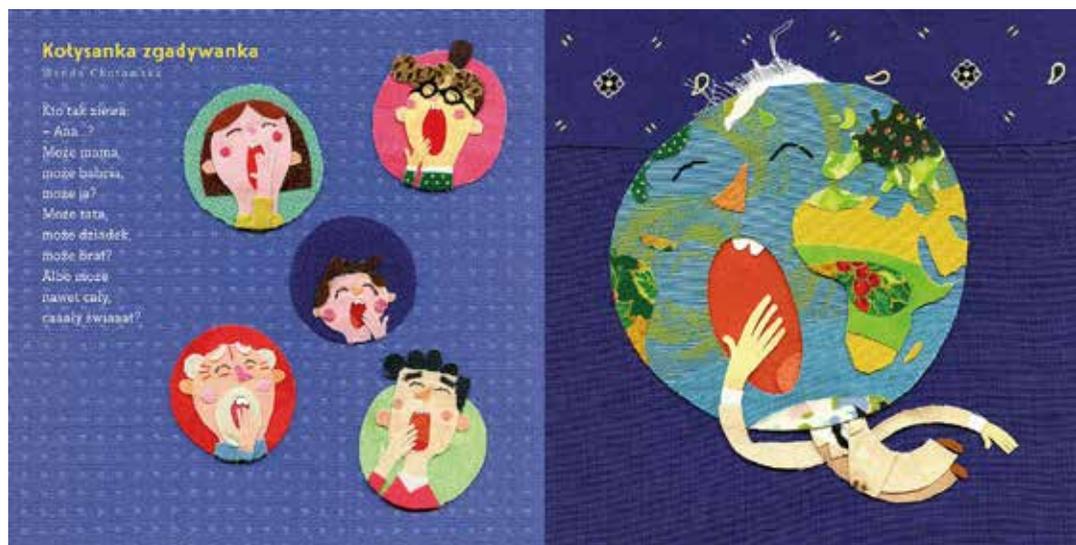
The Layette includes the book *Pierwsze wiersze dla...* ("First poems for..."), with two different covers, which contains a selection of poetry for children by prominent Polish poets: Jan Brzechwa, Julian Tuwim, Wanda Chotomska, Joanna Papuzińska,

\* Statistics Poland data for 2019



Books are important, just as important as a walk in the fresh air or breast milk.

Dr. Zofia Zasacka from the Educational Research Institute



Ludwik Jerzy Kern, Ewa Szelburg-Zarembina, Danuta Wawitów, Anna Kamieńska. The publication has been beautifully illustrated by a married couple, national and international award-winning artists - Ewa Kozyra-Pawlak and Paweł Pawlak.

In addition, the Layette includes an informational booklet entitled *Książką połączeni, czyli o roli czytania w życiu dziecka* ("Connected by a Book: the Role of Reading in a Child's Life") which talks about the benefits of reading.

#### **First Readings for... - children aged 4-6**

The next stage of the campaign "Small Book – Great Man" was the preparation in 2019 of a publication aimed at preschool children and their parents.

The goal of the campaign for this target group is, in addition to promoting reading, to encourage parents and children to visit public libraries.

A unique book entitled *Pierwsze czytanki dla...* ("First Readings for...") is a title prepared and





Józef Wilkoń, left, and Professor Piotr Gliński, Minister of Culture, National Heritage and Sport, during the presentation of the book *First Readings for...*  
Image.  
Photo credit: D.Matloch

**Wanda Chotomska** **Liski**

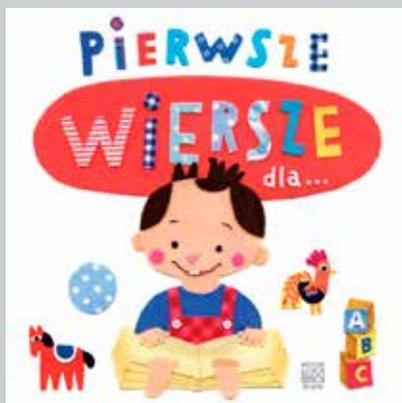
Cztery małe, rude liski  
piły mleko z jednej miski.  
Jeden lisek z drugim liskiem  
powsadzały łapki w misce.  
Trzeci lisek z czwartym liskiem  
weszyły w miskę z wielkim piskiem.  
I wylały mleko z miski  
cztery małe rude liski.



8



**Number of books distributed between 2017 and 2020**



**1,000,000**



**500,000**



**380,000**

published by the Polish Book Institute. It is a selection of classic and contemporary works by Polish children's authors, enriched by the paintbrush of the master of Polish illustration, Józef Wilkoń. Among the authors, we can find Joanna Papuzińska, Wanda Chotomska, Czesław Janczarski, Hanna Januszewska, Liliana Bardijewska, Zofia Stanecka, Anna Onichimowska, Małgorzata Strzałkowska, Adam Bahdaj, Michał Rusinek, Agnieszka Frączek, Joanna Kulmowa, Marcin Brykczyński, Jan Twardowski, and Grzegorz Kasdepke.

The books, along with an informational booklet *Książką połączeni, czyli przedszkolak idzie do biblioteki* ("Connected by a Book: a Preschooler Goes to the Library"), are distributed through public libraries. Every preschool child who comes to one of the nearly 6,000 participating libraries receives both titles and a Little Reader's Card. For each visit to the library, a child gets a sticker, and, after having

collected ten of them, they will be honoured with a personal certificate.

By the end of 2020, more than half a million Little Readers' Layingettes had been given to libraries. For almost 60% of the children participating, this was their first visit to a library.

**First ABC - children aged 7**

The third stage of the "Small Book – Great Man" campaign was prepared for children beginning their primary school education and taking their first steps in learning to read.

Thanks to this book designed especially for them, we invite first year pupils to embark on an extraordinary adventure which is the skill of recognising letters, putting them together into words and sentences, and, finally, the pleasure derived from reading - both with the support of those closest to them as well as readings discovered on their own.





The book *Pierwsze abecadło* ("First ABC") is an anthology of literary texts for early school-age children by some of the most prominent authors of children's books, both classic and contemporary. Readers will find there poetic and prose works of such renowned authors as Tadeusz Kubiak, Janusz Korczak, Małgorzata Musierowicz, Jan Twardowski, Joanna Olech, Jozef Czechowicz, Danuta Wawiłow, and Jerzy Ficowski.

Illustrations for the book were created by Iwona Chmielewska - an artist of extraordinary sensitivity and creative output, known and recognised also abroad (for instance, she was awarded several times with the most important prize for illustrators - the BolognaRagazzi Award).

In their reading layettes, first year pupils will also find a booklet entitled *Książką połączeni, czyli uczymy się czytać razem* ("Connected by a Book: We Learn to Read Together"), which is both a guide for parents and carers on how to support a child in learning to read as well as a collection of ideas for children's games and activities related to texts from the book.

A poster with letters to cut out to support learning the alphabet and reading was also prepared for first year pupils.

#### **Media activities**

From the very beginning, the "Small Book – Great Man" campaign has been accompanied by intensive media activities.

Promotional spots broadcast on the most popular national TV stations obviously have the greatest reach. Each year, the productions are different and involve well-known and popular celebrities: Joanna Koroniewska and Maciej Dowbor, Bartłomiej Kasprzykowski and Tamara Arciuch, as well as Marta Żmuda Trzebiatowska and Kamil Kula.

All promotional spots are also published on the YouTube channel of the Polish Book Institute. In total, they have recorded almost 2 million views.

Along with the start of the campaign, the website [wielki-człowiek.pl](http://wielki-człowiek.pl) was launched to publish materials on reading to children and current information on the campaign itself.

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Mietek Szczęśniak  
sings about the  
magic of reading



"Small Book – Great Man" is also present on social media, especially so on Facebook, where its profile page is followed by around 19,000 fans, and an additionally created special group of people interested in promoting reading has 6200 users.

The pro-reading campaign of the Polish Book Institute is also active in the public space. Each year, it is displayed on over 700 billboards located at public transport stops, in the vicinity of nurseries and kindergartens, and on the main streets of cities throughout Poland.

The leading promotional activities were also complemented by campaigns on national radio stations and events promoting reading organised in shopping malls, kindergartens, and libraries, as well as at large events held on the occasion of Independence Day in Warsaw or the Air Show in Radom.

In addition, at the end of 2019, the Institute has prepared a special song "Small Book – Great Man", which was written by Igor Jaszczuk and performed by the well-known and respected singer Mietek Szczęśniak. The song and its music video explore the magic of reading, emphasise the power of imagination, and show how great the power of books is.

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Joanna Koroniewska  
and Maciej Dowbor  
read to children



**“SMALL BOOK  
- GREAT MAN”  
POSTERS  
(2017-2020)**



# C Z Y T A J

## PRO-READING CAMPAIGNS READ PL AND HUNT YOUR BOOK

Read PL (Polish: Czytaj PL) is one of the largest reading campaigns in Poland aimed at adults who use the latest technologies. Its first edition was held in 2013, when Krakow was awarded the title of UNESCO City of Literature. The main event is held annually in November. Each year, the campaign reaches about 1000 localities in Poland and many places abroad - in five years, the posters of the Read PL campaign have appeared on all continents, even in Antarctica. "Hunt Your Book" (Polish: Upoluj swoją książkę") is a follow-up campaign launched in 2017 as part of Read PL, aimed at high school students.

### READ PL

The aim of the campaign is to invigorate reading in a modern form among people who are less and less inclined to reach for paper books, but who actively use smartphones, without which most of us cannot imagine our lives today.

Over 500,000 books  
downloaded since the campaign launched!



An application  
allowing downloading  
of books



The main square in Krakow - installation promoting the campaign



Over the course of the campaign, 12 books are made available for free in public spaces and on the Internet. To use them, a reader just needs to download the Woblink application onto their phone or tablet and scan the QR code assigned to each title. The application allows you to read books for a month. The number of titles available as audio-books is growing every year, too. The promotional campaign involved well-known youtubers, such as Wojciech Drewniak ("History Uncensored").

Posters with QR codes could be found this year on four continents, in 14 countries, and in nearly 1000 localities in Poland.

Polish literature occupies an important place among the titles available each year as part of the campaign. The participants could read books by Anna Brzezinska, Elzbieta Cherezinska, Wojciech Chmielarz, Marek Krajewski, Jakub Malecki, Remigiusz Mroz, Wieslaw Myśliwski, Nobel Prize winner Olga Tokarczuk, and Wojciech Tochman, to name a few.



**upoluj  
swoją  
książkę**



### **Hunt Your Book**

Since 2017, the Read PL campaign has been complemented by the "Hunt Your Book" campaign developed by the Polish Book Institute, which allows high school students to borrow a book even during a five-minute break - all they need is a smartphone and the application. The list of available books is the same as for Read PL. The campaign aims to encourage young people to read books and not to limit themselves to required school readings only. It also appeals to modern technology and reading in the way that young people find most comfortable.

We recruit school reading ambassadors among students, who make the books available by means of QR codes on T-shirts specially designed for them

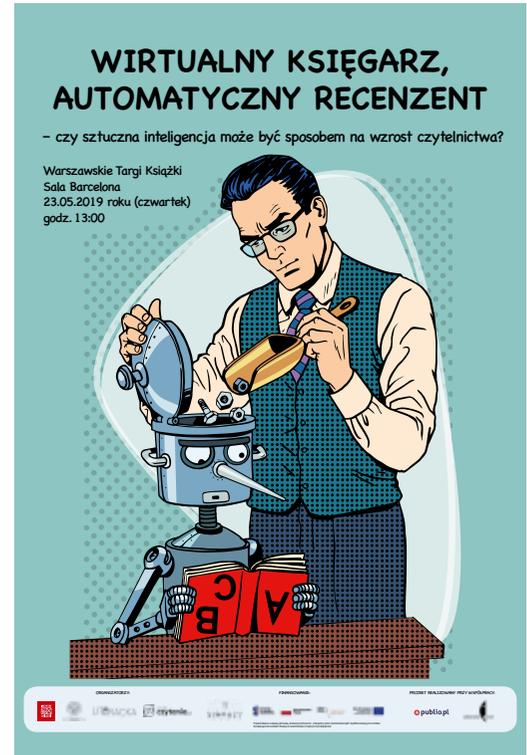
and posters displayed in the schools. The students were also invited to take part in several competitions, including one for the best video promoting reading, which, in a creative and original way, was supposed to encourage young people to take part in the campaign and reach for various titles - both in electronic and paper form. The jury selected the 10 best clips, whose authors and their tutors were invited to a two-day event in Krakow, during which the young people participated in a creative writing workshop "Become Your Hero/Heroine. How to present yourself in an interesting way on social media?" and a literary walk around Krakow.

VIRTUAL BOOKSELLER,  
AUTOMATIC REVIEWER  
- Can artificial intelligence  
be a way to increase  
readership?

## PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL BOOK FAIR

The Polish Book Institute actively engages in the organisation of national events and participates in those whose subject matter is related to the Book Institute's mission. We strive to ensure that public debate does not lack space for important and current topics concerning Polish literature, the book market, reading programmes, or librarianship.

During such events as the International Book Fair in Warsaw and Krakow, the Catholic Publishers' Fair, or the Historical Book Fair, we prepare exhibition stands and organise panels and meetings, which constitute a space for the exchange of experiences as well as of experts and representatives of various circles and organisations.



The Book Institute organised, inter alia, the following debates: "Polish Cultural Community in the Age of Fluid Modernity" (in collaboration with Teologia Polityczna (The Political Theology) with contributions from Marek A. Cichocki and Dariusz Karłowicz), "The Death of the Critic in the Age of the Cult of the Amateur" on the meaning of literary criticism in modern times, "Virtual Bookseller, Automatic Reviewer" about using artificial intelligence to create a book recommendation system, and "Read to Me, Daddy. Why should men read to their children?".

From left:  
Marek Cichocki and  
Dariusz Jaworski



## BOOK DISCUSSION CLUBS

Within the framework of this programme, operating since 2007, in several hundred Polish towns in all provinces, readers meet regularly to discuss books and literature. The programme is addressed primarily to readers using public libraries. It is based on the assumption that there is a need for places where people can talk about books they have read and that you don't have to be a literary critic to enjoy discussing literature. Meetings and discussions about books are informal in nature. Clubs operate at public libraries of all levels (from provincial to district), they can also operate at other institutions (i.e. school libraries, community centres, parish libraries, etc.) in cooperation with a public library. Each Book Discussion Club has its own moderator,

usually a librarian. Their role is not only to moderate club discussions, but also to organise regular meetings and to cooperate with the regional library. Club members meet at a place of their choice, at a frequency of their choice, but not less frequently than once every two months. Participants of Book Discussion Clubs (BDC) belong to all age and social groups.

The strategic objectives of the programme are as follows: promotion of literary culture and readership, revival and integration of circles gathered around public libraries, encouraging new users to use public libraries, and inspiring librarians to create a fashion for reading (for instance by including clubs in nationwide pro-reading campaigns such as

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Meeting of club coordinators and moderators



Jakub Matecki at the training for moderators



National Reading or celebrating literary anniversaries). The aim of the programme is also to popularise the idea of BDC in environments that have not been involved in this movement so far.

Year after year, the programme is becoming more and more popular. In the first half of 2020, there were 1,770 clubs (609 clubs for children and young people and 1,161 clubs for adults) with a total of approx. 17,000 members. The distribution of clubs by type of district is as follows: there are 565 clubs in rural districts, 464 in urban-rural districts, and 741 clubs in cities. For the needs of BDC, in the years 2012 - 2020, about 200,000 volumes were purchased.

There are about 15,000 regular club meetings a year. In 2019, 973 meetings with authors were held, thanks to which club members could talk to over 300 authors. Most often, the guests of the clubs were Renata Piątkowska, Ałbena Grabowska, Jakub Matecki, Tanya Valko, Agata Kołakowska, Małgorzata Warda, Karolina Wilczyńska, Olga Rudnicka, Jakub Żulczyk, Ewa Nowak, Paweł Beręsewicz, Zofia Stanecka, Krystyna Mirek, Barbara Kosmowska, Agnieszka Lingas-Łoniewska, Joanna Jagiełło, Magdalena Majcher, Piotr Milewski, Robert Maktowicz, Izabella Klebańska, Justyna Bednarek, Edyta Świętek, Joanna Bator, Roksana Jędrzejewska-Wróbel, and Michał Rusinek.

The clubs are subsidised by the Polish Book Institute in the form of a grant programme for provincial public libraries.

1,770

clubs

17,000

members

15,000

meetings



NARODOWY  
PROGRAM  
ROZWOJU  
CZYTELNICTWA

## NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF READING

A long-term programme for 2016-2020 adopted by the government which aims to improve the state of readership in Poland by strengthening the role of public, school, and pedagogical libraries as local centres of social life, providing a hub of access to culture and knowledge.

The programme consists of three priorities implemented by the Ministry of Culture, National Heritage and Sport through the National Library, the Polish

Book Institute, and the Ministry of Education and Science. The programme is financed from the state budget to the amount of PLN 4,550,000.

### Priority 1 - Purchase of new publications for public libraries

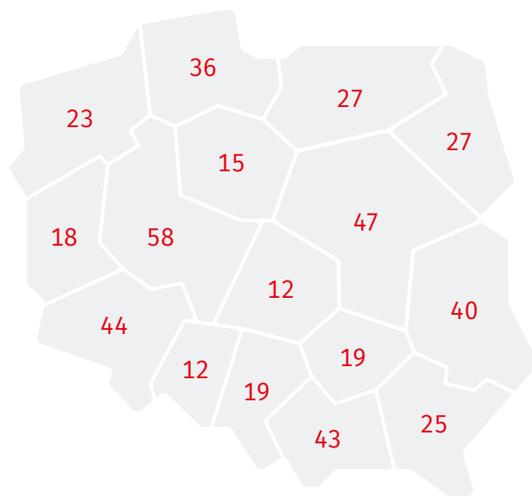
This priority is operated by the National Library, and its aim is to increase the attractiveness of library offerings by increasing the share of new publications in their collections, increasing the availability of books, magazines, multimedia, sheet music, and cartographic publications. In 2016-2020, the sum of PLN 135,000,000 was allocated for the purchase of new publications.

### Priority 2 - Library Infrastructure Programme 2016-2020

This priority is operated by the Polish Book Institute. Under this priority, funding was available for the

A total of PLN 170,000,000 has been allocated for the Library Infrastructure programme. These funds covered the costs of building, modernising, and equipping 222 library facilities throughout Poland.





Number of facilities subsidised under Priority 2 Library Infrastructure 2011-2020 by province. Status as of 20.11.2020.

renovation, remodelling, expansion, and construction of library buildings and their equipment. These actions were intended to help adapt the libraries' infrastructure to changing needs and standards, as well as to develop new functions of public libraries, including increasing the digital competence of residents or strengthening community reading partnerships.

Eligible applicants are municipal cultural institutions: municipal public libraries that are independent cultural institutions and municipal cultural institutions that include libraries, for which the founding body are rural municipalities and urban-rural municipalities (no population limit) and urban municipalities (up to 50,000 inhabitants). The minimum amount of funding is PLN 50,000 and the maximum PLN 2,000,000.

Since the beginning of the Programme, under five admissions, the state budget has provided grants amounting to PLN 170,000,000 to support 222 library

facilities throughout Poland. 'Priority 2' is a continuation and expansion of the Priority "Library+. Library Infrastructure" implemented within the Multiannual Programme KULTURA+ in the years 2011-2015.

**Priority 3 - Developing students' interests by promoting and supporting the development of reading among children and young people, including the purchase of new publications**

The objective of this priority is to enhance the reading interests and activities of all students by supporting the authorities of primary and secondary schools, now discontinued middle schools, upper-secondary schools for children and youth, art schools providing general education, as well as schools and school complexes in Poland.

The activities of this priority are also directed towards diplomatic representations, consular offices as well as military representations of the Republic of Poland and school consultation points at diplomatic representations, consular offices, and military representations of the Republic of Poland acting within the framework of the Centre for the Development of Polish Education Abroad as well as pedagogical libraries. The budget for this priority in 2016-2020 amounted to PLN 150,000,000.



Public Library in Wąbrzeźno



Public Library in Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki

## LIBRARY RANKING

Library Ranking is a nationwide competition for the best library among those that operate in rural and urban-rural municipalities as well as cities (excluding cities with district rights) organised by the Polish Book Institute in cooperation with the "Rzeczpospolita" daily.

The first Library Ranking was published in 2011, its purpose was to promote libraries in smaller areas, which are beneficiaries of the Library Infrastructure Programme. Previous editions of the Ranking indicate that support for cultural activities in the countryside is very important, because a library is often the only place where residents can not only come into contact with books, but also take advantage of a wide variety of cultural offerings (concerts, exhibitions, meetings, performances).

In many places, libraries have taken over the function of community centres.

The winners are selected after careful analysis of surveys that include, among other things: the surface area of a library and branches per 1000 residents, the number of hours a library is open (including weekends), the size of the book collection per 1000 inhabitants, the number of new books purchased, access to the Internet, alternative ways to borrow books and make audiobooks and e-books available. The following are also evaluated: facilities for disabled people, a library's extra activities including reading, art, and literary clubs, a library's participation in national events to promote reading, as well as awards and honourable mentions in the field.

The leaders of  
Library Rankings  
2019



The ten libraries that received the best score on the national scale as well as one best library for each province participate (together with representatives of local authorities) in the ceremonial gala of the Ranking, which takes place in late autumn in Warsaw.

The results of the ranking show that the situation of libraries in smaller areas has improved significantly over the years. Surveys submitted by participants in the 2020 rankings show that as many as 70% of them have their own branches. Over 58% of facilities are adapted for disabled people. More than 65% of facilities have collections for blind or visually impaired people, such as large print or audiobooks.

Almost all libraries offer Internet access, over 76% also have wi-fi and 80% of libraries declare they have a website. Nearly 83% of libraries have an online catalogue. Already more than 50% of the libraries in question have a hundred percent of their book collection available online. 73% of libraries allow you to borrow books by phone, but only 20% of libraries deliver books to your home.

Libraries do not only lend books; almost 59% of them have reading clubs and groups. Nearly 44% of libraries organise other activities, such as theatre, music, and film clubs.

Libraries willingly cooperate with various non-governmental organisations, with over 81% declaring active cooperation. Equally often, they participate in events promoting reading (88%).

The average weekly opening time of a main library is 44 hours; branches are open 24 hours a week. There are on average 3.3 full time librarian positions in a main library. As many as 48% of libraries declare you can visit on Saturday, and only 1% are open on Sundays.

The average surface area of a library is over 294 m<sup>2</sup>, whereas that of a branch is about 70 m<sup>2</sup>. On average, 137 out of every 1,000 residents are library goers. On average, one person borrows 18 books per year. A library's average book collection has over 41,400 books. Over 32% are books purchased after 2009. A library would typically receive approximately 1500 new books during a year.

An average library subsidy is 0.9% of the municipal budget.



## **IBUK LIBRA LIGHT DIGITAL PLATFORM**

According to Statistics Poland, there are over 1,800,000 visually impaired people living in Poland. "IBUK Libra Light" is a platform that makes publications available to the blind, visually and physically impaired, or those otherwise unable to read printed books. Users of this platform can use, free of charge, fictional, scientific, and specialised publications in EPUB or MP3 file format. Access to the resources is provided through authorised entities, whose updated list can be found on the platform's

website. Currently, more than 2600 publications are available in the platform's database.

This innovative project was carried out by Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN ('Polish Scientific Publishers' publishing house) on behalf of the Polish Book Institute.

The platform is available at the following address: [libralight.pwn.pl](http://libralight.pwn.pl)



## SEMINARS BIBLIOTEKA NOWA (NEW LIBRARY)

The paramount goal of this series of seminars is to establish the foundations and guidelines of the development of Polish public libraries. In pursuing this goal, the Polish Book Institute relies on the experience of other countries.

The series was divided into thematic seminars: new challenges, new concepts, new architecture, new offerings, new librarian.

The first edition of the New Library seminar took place in the years 2015-2017 and was attended by

the directors and staff of libraries from small and large centres. It was concluded with a study visit to the Czech Republic in 2017, during which participants could become acquainted with original architectural solutions, learn how to manage modern library space, as well as how to create and implement programmes engaging for readers. Questions were raised about how to reach children, students, and seniors with books and, ultimately, how to bring about a revival of the art of reading in Poland.

The seminar participants visited libraries in Prague, Brno, Liberec, Hradec Králové, Děčín, and Soběslav.

The next edition of the seminar took place in 2019 and included the organisation of a study visit to the libraries of Austria and Germany as well as workshops on architecture and interior design of libraries combined with a forum for the exchange of experiences of librarians. The seminar participants visited the Library and Teaching Centre of the Vienna University of Economics and Business, the Municipal Public Libraries of Augsburg, Schwabisch Hall, Nuremberg, and Zwickau, as well as the Library of the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg.

The second part of the New Library 2019 edition took place in Poland and included workshops on architecture and interior design. Nearly one hundred participants became acquainted with, among other things, the best architectural ideas implemented in national libraries.

Participants of  
the study visit to  
the Czech Republic  
in 2017





Ministerstwo  
**Kultury**  
Dziedzictwa  
Narodowego  
**i Sportu.**

## **FUNDING PROGRAMMES OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, NATIONAL HERITAGE AND SPORT**

For several years, we have been administering funding programmes of the Ministry of Culture, National Heritage and Sport in the field of literature. The number of programmes and their names have changed over the years. In 2017, four areas were defined as the focus of our activities. They are the Promotion of Reading, Magazines, Partnership for Books, and Literature.

### **Promotion of Reading**

The strategic goal of the programme is to support valuable forms of reading promotion in Poland.

Projects relevant to the programme's objectives should be characterised by their original and coherent concept, which skilfully places the most interesting literary phenomena in the broadest possible context of contemporary culture and pursues popularisation ideas based on the knowledge of changes in mentality, sensitivity, and the needs of contemporary audiences. Other important projects for the programme are those whose implementers

use modern technologies and new media, the most effective means of contemporary communication.

The budget of the last three years (2017-2020) amounted to PLN 23,000,000 for this area of activity. A total of 1805 applications were submitted, of which 488 were granted, allocating a total of PLN 20,004,304.

### **Magazines**

The strategic goal of the Magazines programme is to support the nation's most prominent cultural and scholarly magazines.

The key task for the realisation of this goal is to support titles with artistic, literary, and scientific profile, presenting various fields of creativity and developing critical discourse around them. The aim of the programme is to support magazines with long-standing achievements and an established position as well as those which have just gained the status of opinion-forming magazines.

In 2017-2020, the budget of this area amounted to PLN 19,550,000. During this period, 531 applications

for funding were submitted, of which 326 were granted, allocating a total of PLN 14,349,982.

#### **Partnership for Books**

This programme funds four types of activity:

- Providing training to librarians employed in public libraries;
- Conducting activities to invigorate reading in public libraries;
- Conducting training of booksellers employed in bricks and mortar bookshops;
- Promoting bricks and mortar bookshops.

In the years 2017 to 2020, the budget for this programme amounted to PLN 20,550,000. A total of 1851 applications were submitted, of which 1124 were granted, allocating a total of PLN 20,459,962.

#### **Literature**

The strategic goal of the programme is to raise the level of literary awareness and to supplement the publishing market by subsidising valuable, non-commercial publications of Polish and world literature, with particular emphasis on works that deal with the task of preserving cultural and national identity by referring to anniversaries, jubilees, or historical events important to Polish culture.

The programme particularly includes writing debuts, i.e. first publications in book form (print or e-book) by authors writing in Polish, as well as works addressed to children and young people.

In the years 2017 to 2020, the budget for this programme amounted to PLN 16,100,000. A total of 1,033 applications were submitted, of which 534 were granted, allocating a total of PLN 13,404,458.

#### **Kraszewski. Computers for libraries**

The goal of the programme is to provide sustainable access to information and communication technologies as well as levelling opportunities for residents of localities in municipalities with the lowest per capita tax income by equipping communal libraries with modern computer equipment. The programme had editions in 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2020. The name of the programme refers to the Year of Józef Ignacy Kraszewski, celebrated in the first year of the programme (2012), established by the Sejm of the Republic of Poland.

From 2017 to 2020, the programme's budget amounted to PLN 7,500,000. A total of 2264 applications were submitted, of which 387 libraries were awarded funding.

# Activities abroad

One of the main tasks of the Book Institute is to promote Polish literature abroad. The Institute implements this task primarily through participation in international book fairs, the @Poland Translation Programme, the Sample Translations programme, the publication of catalogues of the most interesting Polish new publications *New Books from Poland*, and thematic catalogues - *Polish Books for Children & Young Adults*.

## INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIRS

Depending on their location and importance, the Polish Book Institute organises information stands (Angouleme, Abu Dhabi, Bratislava, Budapest, Kiev, Minsk, Moscow, Leipzig, Lviv, Paris, Beijing, Prague), and at the most important fairs - collective stands (Bologna, London, Frankfurt). Collective stands are

In 2019, the Book Institute allocated PLN 1,904,000 for costs associated with the presence at book fairs.

characterised by a much larger exhibition area, a large number of Polish publishers, and a much greater investment of effort and resources than in the case of information stands.

The fair stands showcase books by Polish authors, including new titles from the *New Books from Poland* catalogue, publications published within the @Poland Translation Programme, as well as

titles promoted by national publishers present at the stand.

The International Book Fair is also an excellent opportunity to meet with Polish authors presenting the latest translations of their works, participate in panels on Polish literature, and learn about the offer of support for foreign publishers in publishing Polish books.

### The London Book Fair

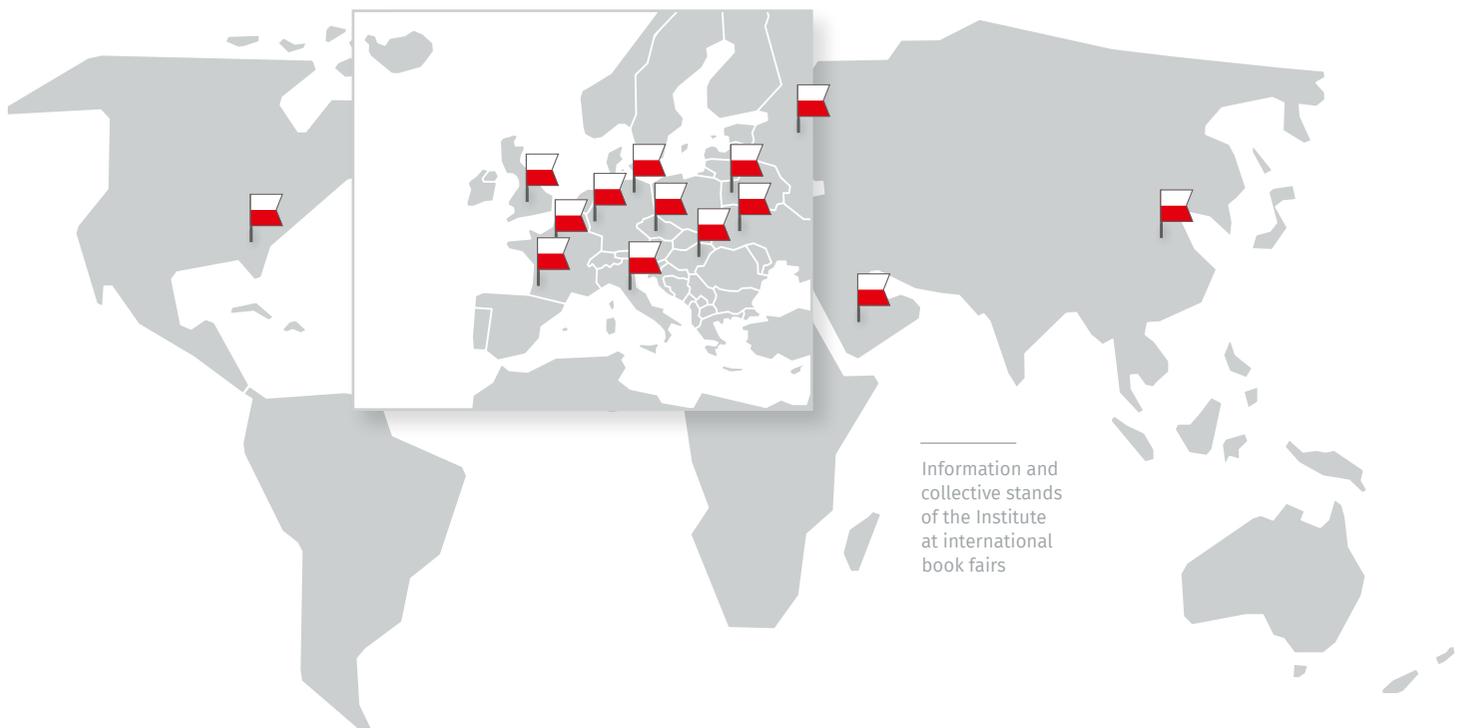
The second largest international book fair for professionals, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2021. Every year, more than 25,000 people professionally involved in the publishing market participate. The event is attended by about 1,000 publishers and institutions from over 60 countries.

Every year, the Institute together with Polish exhibitors present a wide range of publications. At a stand of about 160m<sup>2</sup>, it showcases books from the *New Books from Poland* catalogue; publications for



Polish stand  
in London





Polish stand at the International Book Fair in Bologna

children from the catalogue prepared for foreign publishers of children's literature *Polish Books for Children & Young Adults*, as well as titles nominated for the most important Polish literary awards.

The stand also displays translations of Polish literature into other languages, co-financed by the @Poland Translation Programme. Every year, the stand is complemented by an exhibition dedicated to the artist whose jubilee year is celebrated in Poland.

### **Bologna Children's Book Fair**

The world's largest book fair for children and young adults, with about 1,500 publishers from 80 countries and almost 30,000 visitors each year. During the event, there are about 250 different kinds of conferences and workshops devoted not only to children's and young adults' books but also to illustrations. The fair is accompanied by 12 exhibitions presenting the editorial or illustrative achievements of artists from different countries as well as a special exhibition presenting the most important trends in children's illustration in a given year from around the world. During the fair, the prestigious



The stand of the Book Institute in Abu Dhabi

BolognaRagazzi Award - for the best illustrated children's book - is also presented. Many Polish illustrators have already won this award.

The Polish Book Institute has been present in Bologna since 2013, with the number of Polish exhibitors growing significantly in recent years. Children's Books is the most dynamically developing sector of the Polish publishing market, and, after many years of work, the Institute is perceived as the host of the stand showcasing titles of excellent quality. Certainly, the numerous BolognaRagazzi Awards won by our artists, such as Iwona Chmielewska, Aleksandra

and Daniel Mizielinski, Adam Jaromir, Gabriela Cichowska, Urszula Palusińska, and Dominika Czerniak-Chojnacka, have contributed to this.

### Frankfurter Buchmesse

The largest and most important book fair in the world, held since 1949, is visited annually by about 300,000 visitors. The event was attended by more than 7,500 exhibitors from 100 countries, and there are about 4,000 different types of meetings and panels held during the fair.

The Frankfurt fair is usually attended by the most numerous groups of representatives of Polish publishers and printing houses (about 50 exhibitors), therefore the Polish stand at this event is particularly impressive. Every year at the Frankfurt fair, a catalogue of the most interesting new publications - *New Books from Poland* - has its premiere.

The stand in Frankfurt



## THE POLISH BOOK INSTITUTE'S CATALOGUES

For years, the Institute has been preparing catalogues with foreign publishers and readers in mind, presenting the most valuable and interesting offerings from fiction, genre literature, non-fiction, children and youth literature, as well as classics.

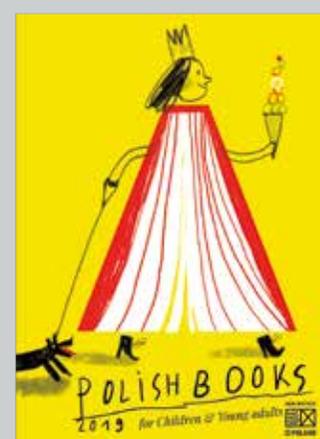
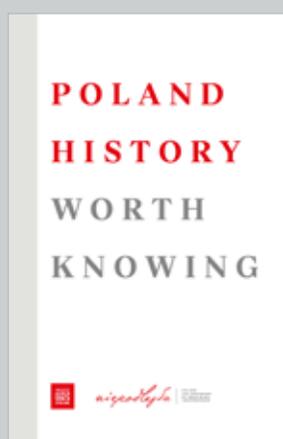
The most important catalogue is *New Books from Poland*. Twice a year, it presents the most interesting books that have recently gained recognition in Poland. From the vast number of publications available on the Polish market, we select and display the most valuable books that particularly deserve attention and publication abroad.

Since 2018, we have also been preparing catalogues for readers and publishers of children's literature. Polish children's literature enjoys an excellent reputation abroad and is awarded the most prestigious industry awards (including the

BolognaRagazzi Award). The *Polish Books for Children & Young Adults* catalogue lists the most interesting phenomena in this area, as well as introduces foreign readers to the classics of Polish children's literature, which are worthy of introduction to readers outside Poland.

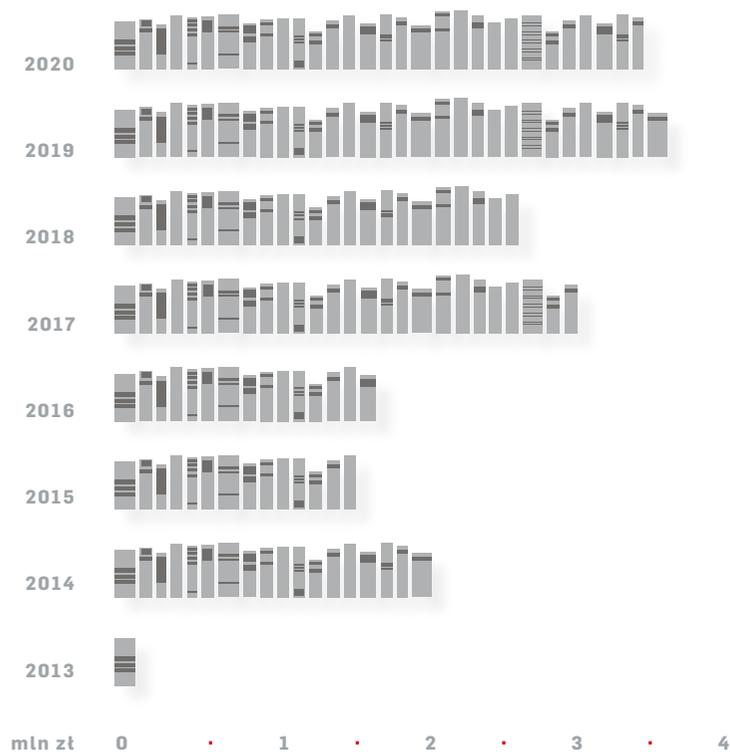
On the occasion of the centenary of Poland's regaining independence, we prepared a special catalogue *Poland - History Worth Knowing* for the first time. It introduces works on the history of Poland which are considered the most interesting from the point of view of both publishers and foreign readers.

The catalogues of the Institute are created in close cooperation with leading specialists in Poland - literary critics, historians, and publicists.



## THE @POLAND TRANSLATION PROGRAMME

The programme aims to promote Polish literature around the world and is addressed to both foreign and Polish publishers involved in publishing Polish books translated into other languages.



### @POLAND PROGRAMME BUDGET

The programme included:

- Fiction - prose, poetry, and drama
- Works of the broadly understood old and contemporary humanities, with particular emphasis on books devoted to Polish culture and literature
- Non-fiction - literary reportage, biographies, memoirs, essays
- Historical works - essayist and popularising, excluding works of a specialist and scientific nature
- Literature for children and young adults
- Comic books.

The financial contribution of the Polish Book Institute is intended to finance a part of the costs of the publication of the work, including inter alia:

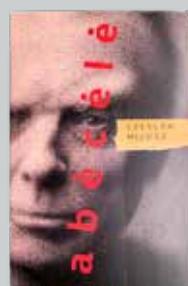
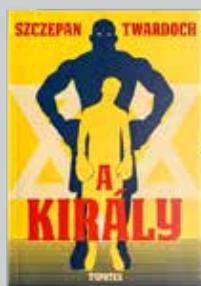
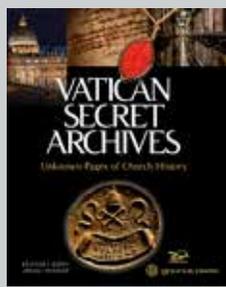
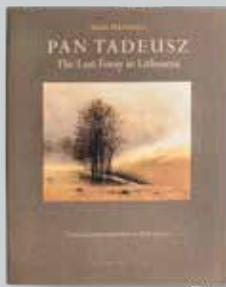
- Translation of a work from Polish into a foreign language
- Purchase of copyright licences
- Printing the work.

Applications are open to publishers who have the ability and experience in publishing and distributing books in the language area covered by the application, who intend to publish works of Polish literature translated into other languages and distribute them in printed form, as e-books, or audiobooks outside Poland.

### The numbers speak for themselves

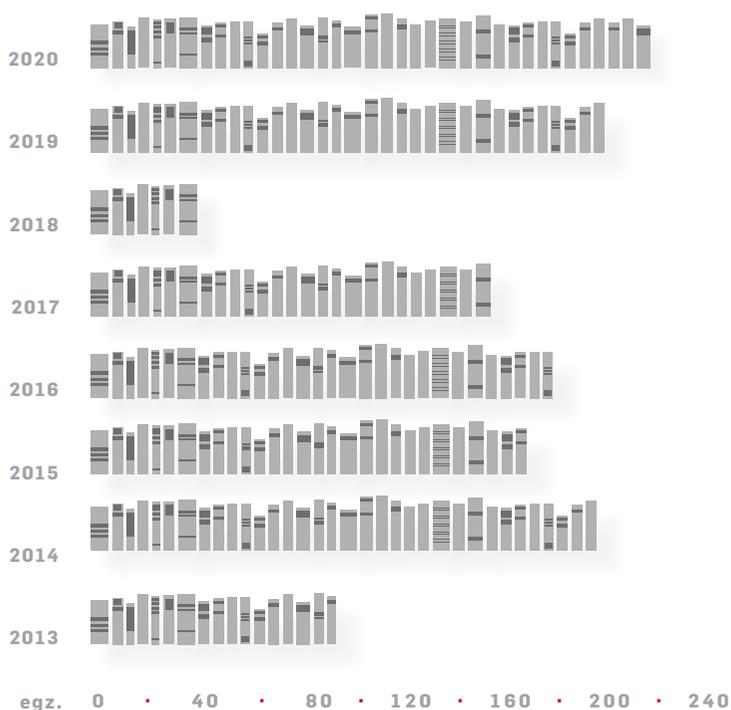
Comparing the years 2013-2015 to 2016-2020, we can see an over 115% increase in the number of applications submitted, grants awarded, and, ultimately, books published. The number of languages into which Polish books have been translated and

**SELECTED BOOKS PUBLISHED WITH THE SUPPORT OF @POLAND TRANSLATION PROGRAMME**



**T** LANGUAGES WITH THE HIGHEST  
**O** NUMBER OF TRANSLATIONS  
**P** OF POLISH LITERATURE  
 PUBLISHED WITHIN THE  
**5** PROGRAMME IN 2016-2020

UKRANIAN	65
CZECH	59
SPANISH	57
GERMAN	47
ENGLISH	43



**NUMBER OF PUBLISHED BOOKS**

the number of countries in which they have been published have also increased.

Between 2013 and 2015, 697 applications were considered, of which 573 grants (82.2%) for the amount of PLN 3,243,000 were allocated. During this period, a total of 468 books were published.

Between 2016 and 2020, 1655 applications were considered, of which 1086 grants were allocated (66%) for the amount of almost PLN 11.5 million. During this period, 975 books were published.

The Translation Programme has contributed to the publication of translations of Polish classics (including works by Mickiewicz, Krasiński, Wyspiański, Prus, Norwid, Sienkiewicz), the most outstanding poetry (Herbert, Miłosz, Szymborska, among others), 20th century literature (Herling-Grudziński, Korczak, Gombrowicz, Mackiewicz, Mroźek, Lem, Piasecki, Witkacy, Żeromski), as well as contemporary recognised artists (Tokarczuk, Twardoch, Myśliwski, Libera, Sapkowski, Wildstein, Dukaj and many others). Contemporary Polish childrens books are also represented in great numbers in the programme - with titles by such renowned authors as Socha, the Mizieliński duo, Oklejak, Maleszka, Butenko, Ryrych, Pawlak, to name a few.

## SAMPLE TRANSLATIONS PROGRAMME

As part of the programme, which aims to promote Polish literature abroad, translators present foreign publishers with translations of excerpts from books (up to 20 pages of a sample translation). Obtaining the grant does not affect the possibility of the book publisher to apply for funding for translation within the @POLAND Translation Programme. The programme is addressed to translators who have published at least one translation from Polish before submitting the application. So far, about 850 sample translations have been created.

## TRANSLATORS' COLLEGIUM

Translators's Collegium is a residential programme for translators of Polish literature, implemented by the Polish Book Institute since 2006. Every year, we host translators in Krakow, and since 2019 also in Warsaw, whom we offer quiet working conditions for translations, library searches, or meetings with authors and experts.

As part of 144 scholarship stays, 112 translators from 37 countries came to Krakow by the end of 2020 (Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Colombia, South Korea, Cuba, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Spain, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, USA, Great Britain, Vietnam).



Tadeusz Konwicki's  
flat - studio





Translators'  
Collegium building  
in Krakow

Included with the study stay, the participant receives reimbursement of travel costs, a scholarship, accommodation in Krakow or Warsaw, and assistance in organising meetings with publishers or writers as part of a project carried out by a translator.

During their stays, the translators worked, inter alia, on the new translations of many works: English *Zemsta* ("Vengeance") by Aleksander Fredro (Philip Boehm), Dutch *Lalka* ("The Doll") by Boleslaw Prus (Karol Lesman), Japanese *Tygrys i Róża* ("Tiger and Rose") by Małgorzata Musierowicz (Kazuko Tamura), French *Widnokrąg* ("Horizon") by Wiesław Myśliwski (Margot Carlier), Korean *Short Story Collections* by Stanisław Lem (Jiwone Lee), Chinese *Podróże z Herodotem* ("Travels with Herodotus") by Ryszard Kapuściński (Wu Lan), Hungarian *Dzienniki* ("Diaries") by Witold Gombrowicz *Andras Palyi*, and many others.

The Institute provides translators with accommodation in Krakow within a building equipped with five suites with a lounge and a conference room. In Warsaw, they are accommodated in the flat-studio of the writer, screenwriter, and film director Tadeusz Konwicki, where the author of *Mata apokalipsa* ("A Minor Apocalypse") lived from 1956 until his death in 2015. The flat's furnishings, while retaining some of the original equipment, were made in agreement with the writer's daughter, Maria Konwicka.

The aim of the project was to commemorate Tadeusz Konwicki and his work as well as to preserve the unique character of the flat, which the writer had a great fondness for.

Thanks to the unique, creative atmosphere, the flat has become a space that translators happily return to.

The flat was bought and renovated in 2018 by the Polish Book Institute with funds provided by the Ministry of Culture, National Heritage and Sport.

Albrecht Lempp  
(Photo credit:  
E. Lempp)



## **THE ALBRECHT LEMPP SCHOLARSHIP**

The Scholarship is intended for writers from Poland and Germany as well as for German translators of Polish literature and Polish translators of German-language literature.

Its aim is to cultivate the art of translation and writing in the spirit of literary and translation standards close to Albrecht Lempp as well as to commemorate his contribution to the German-Polish literary exchange.

The scholarship is funded by the Polish Book Institute, the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation, and the Literarisches Colloquium Berlin

Albrecht Lempp (1953-2012) was an outstanding populariser and translator of Polish literature in Germany. He laid the foundations for a modern system of promoting Poland through literature.

As a co-founder of the Institute, he received the Transatlantyk Award granted for merits in this field. For many years, he was the director of the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation and made a great contribution to the development of Polish-German relations.

The Albrecht Lempp Scholarship laureates:

- 2013 Justyna Bargielska and Armin Senser
- 2014 Tomasz Różycki and Paulina Schulz
- 2015 Krystyna Dąbrowska and Tobias Schwartz
- 2016 Marek Zagańczyk and Renate Schmidgall
- 2017 Kira Pietrek and Mia Raben
- 2018 Zyta Rudzka and Isabelle Lehn
- 2019 Małgorzata Rejmer and Julia Wolf
- 2020 Jakub Małecki and Susanne Fritz

## THE SCHOOL OF NEW TRANSLATORS

The programme of translation workshops, addressed to people from various countries who know Polish and wish to translate Polish literature professionally, is carried out jointly with Polish Institutes. The aim of the school is to increase the number of Polish translators, especially in countries where there are few of them and where there is a great interest in Polish culture and literature.

The workshop programme consists of two parts. The first one takes place in the country of origin of the candidates for translators and consists of a three-month course conducted under the guidance of a recognised translator from a given country.



Participants of the School of New Translators from Israel

Łukasz Orbitowski during the workshop for the candidates for translators in Russia



The second part of the workshop is dedicated to the best candidates for translators selected in the first part and takes place in Poland. During ten days of classes, the candidates meet, for instance with the author of the novel from which comes the excerpt they are working on in order to get to know the specifics of a particular work and to convey the author's thoughts in their native language.

So far, two editions of the School have been completed. The first one - in 2019 in Israel, under the leadership of Miriam Borenstein, translator of, for instance, Bolesław Prus' *Lalka* ("The Doll") and Anat Zajdman, translator of, among other things, Wiesław Myśliwski's works, with the participation of writer Jakub Malecki, in which 12 candidates for translators took part. The second edition started in 2019 and was completed in 2020 in Russia under the leadership of Irina Adelgeim, a translator of, among others, Olga Tokarczuk, with the participation of the writer Łukasz Orbitowski, in which 16 people participated.



Winner of the Transatlantyk Award 2019  
– Hendrik Lindepuu

## TRANSATLANTYK AWARD

An annual award from the Polish Book Institute for an eminent ambassador of Polish literature abroad granted since 2005. The winner may be a translator and a publisher, Polish literature scholar, a critic, or an animator of cultural life.

Citizens of other countries (including Poles with foreign passports) may apply for the Award. Applications for the Award may be submitted by Polish and foreign institutions involved in the promotion of culture, research centres, publishing houses, creative associations, and private individuals.

The winner is selected by the Award Jury, composed of eminent literary researchers, cultural animators, translators, and the director of the Institute.

The Award is worth 10,000 euros and is accompanied by a commemorative certificate and a statuette designed by Łukasz Kieferling.

Previous winners:

- 2005 **Henryk Bereska** (Germany) – originally from Silesia, a prominent translator of Polish literature into German;
- 2006 **Anders Bodegård** (Sweden) – translator and promoter of Polish literature in Sweden, well-known in Poland;
- 2007 **Albrecht Lempp** (Germany) – assisted in Poland's success as an Honorary Guest at the International Book Fair in Frankfurt, translator of, among others, Głowacki and Pilch;
- 2008 **Ksenia Starosielska** (Russia) – translator of the works of Polish prose writers into Russian since 1960s;





Winner of the  
Transatlantyk Award  
2018 – Antonia  
Lloyd-Jones

- 2009 Biserka Rajčić** (Serbia) – translator of Polish poets, philosophers, literary scholars; she is an expert of the Polish avant-garde;
- 2010 Pietro Marchesani** (Italy) – a prominent promoter of the works of Wisława Szymborska in Italy;
- 2011 Vlasta Dvořáčková** (Czech Republic) – distinguished populariser of Polish poetry in the Czech Republic;
- 2012 Yi Lijun** (China) – literary scholar, translator of, among other things, *Dziady* (“Forefathers’ Eve”), *Trylogia* (“Trilogy”), and *Zniewolony umysł* (“The Captive Mind”);
- 2013 Karol Lesman** (Netherlands) – expert on Witkacy, he translated the canon of Polish prose into Dutch;
- 2014 Bill Johnston** (USA) – remarkable expert and promoter of Polish contemporary literature, but also poetical classics of the 19th century; equally contributed to American success of the novels by Myśliwski;
- 2015 Laurence Dyèvre** (France) – a translator with about sixty translations to her name, mainly Polish contemporary prose, spanning the whole of the 20<sup>th</sup> century;
- 2016 Constantin Geambașu** (Romania) – translator and graduate of Polish philology, with about fifty Polish books published in the most prestigious Romanian publishing houses;
- 2017 Lajos Pálfalvi** (Hungary) – a literary historian, critic, one of the most prominent translators of Polish literature, with nearly sixty published book translations of Polish fiction, essays, and reportage; a great promoter of the works of Józef Mackiewicz;
- 2018 Antonia Lloyd-Jones** (Great Britain) – one of the most outstanding translators of Polish literature into English, a great promoter of Polish culture; her achievements include over a hundred translations;
- 2019 Hendrik Lindepuu** (Estonia) – one of the most outstanding translators acquainting foreign readers with Polish literature, with over 50 books published in Estonia and 70 theatre plays translated; it is largely thanks to him that contemporary Polish literature is present in Estonia, not only does he translate it, but also publishes it in Hendrik Lindepuu Kirjastus publishing house since 2003;
- 2020 Ewa Thompson** (USA) – professor emeritus of Slavic studies at Rice University, where not only did she raise successive generations of Slavicists, but also edited (from 1981 to 2018) the Sarmatian Review periodical, in which Slavic themes are the main subject matter; Professor Thompson also published a monograph on Gombrowicz and numerous works on the relations between Poland and Russia; her activity was recognised by the Union of Polish Writers Abroad, and, in 2015, she was honoured with an award for the dissemination of Polish culture and literature in the world.



Found in Translation

Winner of the 'Found in Translation' award  
– Anna Zaranko

## 'FOUND IN TRANSLATION' AWARD

The award was established in 2008 and is granted annually to the translator of the best translation of Polish literature into English in the past calendar year, which was published in book form.

The award is funded by the Polish Book Institute, the Institute of Polish Culture in London, and the Polish Cultural Institute in New York. The award comprises a certificate, a monthly residence in the Translators' Collegium together with the flight and remuneration for the duration of the residence as well as a cash prize of PLN 16000 (approx. EUR 3500).

The winners of 'Found in Translation' Award:

- 2008 **Bill Johnston**, for the translation of poems by Tadeusz Różewicz
- 2009 **Antonia Lloyd-Jones**, for the translation of *The Last Supper* by Paweł Huelle
- 2010 **Danuta Borchardt**, for the translation of *Pornografia* by Witold Gombrowicz
- 2011 **Clare Cavanagh and Stanisław Barańczak**, for the translation of the volume of poetry *Here* by Wisława Szymborska
- 2012 **Joanna Trzeciak**, for the translation of poems by Tadeusz Różewicz
- 2013 **Antonia Lloyd-Jones**, for the entirety of her 2012 translation output
- 2014 **Philip Boehm**, for the translation of *Chasing the King of Hearts* by Hanna Krall
- 2015 **Ursula Phillips**, for the translation of *Choucas* by Zofia Nałkowska
- 2016 **Bill Johnston**, for the translation of *Twelve Stations* by Tomasz Różycki
- 2017 **Piotr Florczyk**, for the translation of *Building the Barricade* by Anna Świrszczyńska
- 2018 **Jennifer Croft**, for the translation of *Flights* by Olga Tokarczuk
- 2019 **Madeline G. Levine**, for the translation of *Collected Stories* by Bruno Schulz
- 2020 **Anna Zaranko**, for the translation of *The Memoir of an Anti-Hero* by Kornel Filipowicz.



## **WORLD CONGRESS OF TRANSLATORS OF POLISH LITERATURE**

The most important event in the world of translators of Polish literature, which takes place once every four years.

The first Congress was organised in 2005. It was attended by 174 interpreters from 50 countries. In 2009, the event was attended by 215 participants from 56 countries, in 2013, almost 250 people accepted the invitation. The last, fourth edition, took place in December 2017 and gathered almost 300 translators from around the world.

The Congress is an opportunity to exchange experiences, learn about current trends in Polish literature, and meet writers and critics. Among the many invited authors, the congress was attended by Ryszard Kapuściński, Olga Tokarczuk, Wiesław Myśliwski, Adam Zagajewski, Jan Polkowski, Bronisław Wildstein, Jacek Dukaj, Wojciech Tomczyk, Antoni Libera, and Marta Kwaśnicka.

Participants of  
the World Congress  
in 2017



## "POLISH BOOKSHELF" PROJECT

The project aims to reach out with Polish literature to readers in various countries through the local libraries. We wish to gain new audiences for Polish literature by showing its diversity and charm, as well as by promoting knowledge about Poland and its culture, building a positive image of our country abroad.

The idea of the "Polish Bookshelf" emerged in 2018 as a joint venture of the Polish Book Institute, the Polish Embassy, and the Polish Cultural Institute in London. A year later, the project was inaugurated in the United States. Thanks to the project, the book collections of the network of municipal libraries in Philadelphia (*Free Library of Philadelphia*) and New York (*Brooklyn Public Library*) have been enriched with over 200 books by Polish authors and books by foreign-language

authors about Poland, selected by American librarians themselves. Fiction, classics, and contemporary prose, as well as non-fiction literature (with particular emphasis on the biographies of great Poles and history) and children's books were selected. There can be found works by Polish Nobel Prize winners and laureates of prestigious awards (Szyborska, Miłosz, Sienkiewicz), as well as offerings for readers looking for valuable entertainment (books by Miłoszewski and Sapkowski). The vast majority of them are books translated into English, to make it possible for anyone to reach for them - even those who have not had any contact with Polish culture before. The "Polish Bookshelf" was implemented by the Book Institute in cooperation with *Citizen Diplomacy International* and the Polish Cultural Institute in New York.

Inauguration of the  
"Polish Bookshelf" in  
United States



Poster with the poem *Guziki* ("Buttons") by Zbigniew Herbert

## PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS

In 2018-2019, the Polish Book Institute conducted three campaigns promoting Polish literature abroad in cooperation with other public institutions.

### London - Polish poetry on the Underground

From 5th to 18th November 2018, passengers of the London underground could read excerpts from Zbigniew Herbert's *Przestanie Pana Cogito* ("The Envoy of Mr Cogito"), translated by Alissa Valles, Jarosław Marek Rymkiewicz's *Oktostychy* translated by Marek Kazmierski, as well as a new translation of *Pan Tadeusz* by Bill Johnston, a winner of the Transatlantyk and Found in Translation awards. The aim of the campaign was to draw attention to Polish literature and its translation into English, especially in the context of the celebration of the centenary of Poland's regaining independence.

Poster placed on the London Underground



Poster with the poem *Podróż* ("A Journey") by Zbigniew Herbert

### Budapest - poems by Zbigniew Herbert on the underground

From 20th November to 20th December 2018, several hundred posters with excerpts of Zbigniew Herbert's poems were displayed in the carriages of the Budapest Metro. The posters, designed by the renowned artist Krzysztof Ducki, who has lived in Hungary for many years, promoted the outstanding works of the Polish poet. The Metro featured excerpts of poems such as *Pan Cogito o postawie wyprostowanej* ("Mr. Cogito on Upright Attitudes"), *Potęga smaku* ("The Power of Taste"), *Przestanie Pana Cogito* ("The Envoy of Mr. Cogito"), *Węgrom* ("To the Hungarians"), *Podróż* ("A Journey").

The campaign carried out in cooperation with the Polish Institute in Budapest was connected with both the centenary of Poland's regaining independence as well as the Herbert Year established by the Polish Parliament.

### London - Shakespeare and Poland festival

Organised in cooperation with the famous theatre *The Globe*, the festival was to bring the richness and uniqueness of Polish literature and theatre closer to the British audience. The pretext for this was to trace Shakespeare's place in the imagination of Polish artists and researchers.

The festival was an opportunity to present Stanisław Wyspiański to the British audience, whose play *Śmierć Ofelii* ("The Death of Ophelia") was shown during the event. The first English translation of the *Studium o Hamlecie* ("Hamlet Study"), written by the author of *Wesele* ("The Wedding"), was also presented. The groundwork for this event



was laid by the 2017 publication, supported by the Polish Book Institute, of a collection of Wyspiański's plays translated by Charles S. Kraszewski. The second Polish hero of the festival was Jan Kochanowski, whose *Odprawa posłów greckich* ("The Dismissal of the Greek Envoys") and *Treny* ("Laments") were presented during the festival.

### 'New Books from Poland 2020' - promotional video

Towards the end of 2020, The Polish Book Institute presented a promotional video 'New Books from Poland 2020' which was the worldwide showcase of the most interesting and inspiring books by Polish authors presented in the English-language catalogue of the same title.

The film, produced entirely in Poland by Polish filmmakers, was directed and based on a script by Grzegorz Jankowski. It was produced as part of an international campaign conducted by the Book Institute to promote the 'New Books from Poland' catalogue and the booksfrompoland.pl website to key markets for the sale of literary rights: American, British, German and French, and, thanks to the Internet, worldwide.

The core of the campaign and its first stage comprised advertising and editorial content in the most important industry magazines and websites on the aforementioned markets: in the American 'Publishing Perspectives', the British 'The Bookseller', the German 'Boersenblatt', and the French 'Livres Hebdo'.

The second stage of the campaign included the publication of new language versions of the film (Spanish, Russian, German, and French), and foreign partners of the Polish Book Institute from the publishing industry as well as the invitation of embassies of the Republic of Poland and Polish Institutes around the world to cooperate in their distribution and promotion on social networks of relevant language areas.

During the third stage, the Institute showed a series of nine film presentations of selected books from the 'New Books from Poland' catalogue on social networks: *Oraz wygnani zostali* ('They Too Were Banished') by Waclaw Holewiński, *Zimowla* ('The Hibernation of Bees') by Dominika Stowik, *Nieradość* ('Nonjoy') by Paweł Sołtys, *Pchła* ('Flea') by Anna Potyra, *Patyki, badyle* ('Sticks and Stalks') by Urszula Zajączkowska, *Pomyłka* ('Mistake') by Marta Kwaśnicka, *Światło Zachodu* ('The Light of the West') by Bartosz Jastrzębski, *Bunt i afirmacja. Esej o naszych czasach* ('Rebellion and Affirmation. An Essay about Our Times') by Bronisław Wildstein, *Tyrmand. Pisarz o białych oczach* ('Tyrmand. The Writer with the White Eyes') by Marcel Woźniak.

The 'New Books from Poland' catalogue is a selection of new titles from the Polish book market addressed to foreign publishers. This publication, prepared every autumn by the Polish Book Institute, serves the Institute as well as Polish publishers and literary agents to persuade foreign publishers to publish books by Polish authors translated into foreign languages and, in this way, to promote Polish literature among the general public around the world.



# The Polish Book Institute-affiliated magazines

The Institute is the publisher and co-publisher of cultural magazines that have been published for many years, commissioned by the Minister of Culture, National Heritage and Sport.

## DIALOG

Established in 1956, a monthly magazine devoted to contemporary drama - theatre, film, radio, and television.

The publication of dramatic texts was and still is the main focus of the magazine. For almost fifty years, each issue of the monthly has had at least one Polish play or script published. The plays published in "Dialog" are accompanied by essays, editorial conversations, columns, detailed presentations of playwrights' profiles, as well as information about the life of contemporary theatre.

The editor in chief of the magazine is Jacek Sieradzki.

## LITERATURA NA ŚWIECIE

The magazine presents the most valuable material from world literature - from classics to the avant-garde. In addition to translations, here one can find critical dissertations, discussions, auto-commentaries, and overviews of translation production. The magazine also offers new translations of canonical works (Proust, Kafka, Flaubert).

The issues are monographic, and they are dedicated to one writer (Joyce, Nabokov, Beckett, Cortazar, Brodski, Barth, Kafka, Borges, Céline, Plath, Blixen, Henry Miller, Kundera, Havel) or one culture (Latinos, Quebec, New Yorkers, Maghreb, Sicily) or a phenomenon (eroticism, drunkenness, death, Talmud, heresy, French essay, artificial intelligence).

The editor in chief of the magazine is Piotr Sommer.





## NOWE KSIĄŻKI

A journal of literary and scientific criticism published since 1949. It is addressed to academic and literary circles, librarians and readers, publishers and booksellers - to say the least: all book lovers.

In each issue, nearly 100 reviews and notes written by renowned critics and scientists are published. Fiction, reportage, and popular science books. Literature studies, art, psychology/psychotherapy, cultural history, history of ideas, world history, law and philosophy, conversations with writers, scholars, and translators, as well as foreign correspondence, columns, and chronicles of literary and book events.

The editor in chief of the magazine is Grzegorz Filip.

## TEATR

The monthly magazine records and describes the most important events related to the Polish and foreign theatre scene. In each issue, there are overviews of premieres from all over the country, as well as talks, commentaries, and columns. The magazine deals primarily with contemporary theatre but does not forget about its past.

Alongside "Twórczość", "Teatr" is the oldest Polish cultural magazine. It has been published regularly since 1946. For years, the editorial team has been awarding prestigious prizes in the theatre community: for the best director (the Konrad Swinarski Award) and actors of the season (the Aleksander Zelwerowicz Award). Several times, the Special Award for lifetime artistic achievements was granted.

The editor in chief of the magazine is Jacek Kopciński.

## TWÓRCZOŚĆ

This monthly magazine is the oldest Polish literary magazine. It was established in August 1945 in Krakow. It publishes poetry, prose, and essays mainly by Polish artists - both famous and debuting. In each issue, there are regular sections "The Book of the Month" and "Among the Books", dedicated to new books by Polish authors, as well as "On the Horizon" and "Notes", containing short essays on various topics (theatre, philosophy, visual arts, foreign literature, music). An important supplement to the issue is "Foreign Review" and the occasional sections "Archive" and "It Was and It Was". The magazine concludes with the author's section - for many years it was "Read in Typescript" by Henryk Berezka, and then "On the Kitchen Stairs" by Tadeusz Komendant, "Sparrow on the Roof" by Szymon Wróbel, and "Oh, My Little Nightingale" by Andrzej Nowak.

The editor in chief of the monthly is Mateusz Werner.

## AKCENT

The quarterly, co-published with the East Central European Culture Foundation in Lublin, is devoted to literature and other fields of art in the context of the latest achievements of humanistic thought. It has been published since 1980, and it analyses cultural processes that take place on the borderline of cultures.

Occasionally, "Akcent" publishes a block of texts devoted to one topic, problem, or person, e.g. "Child and the world", "Suicides and other people", "Game - topic and method", "Peasants - creators of culture", "Warsaw Uprising", "Hungarians and about Hungarians", "Eroticism in literature", "Comedy, humour, and grotesque in European culture", "Polish Americans", "Karol Wojtyła - poet, playwright, philosopher", "Reading Ukraine".

The editor in chief of "Akcent" is Bohdan Zadura.

## ODRA

The monthly magazine co-published with The Culture and Art Centre OKIS in Wrocław was founded in 1961 and is a valued forum for debates on current Polish and international issues. The most eminent Polish and foreign researchers, writers, and artists present their views in these discussions and polemics.

"Odra" presents, discusses, and evaluates the latest domestic and foreign literary works in critical sections as well as promotes the works of young writers and artists. Each issue is accompanied by "The 8th Sheet" devoted to trends in new literature and the presentation of the most recent works. It is edited by young associates of the magazine.

The editor in chief of the magazine is Mieczysław Orski.

## TEATR LALEK

The quarterly magazine co-published with the "Polunima" organisation dates back to the interwar period - it is a continuation of the "Bal u Lal" monthly, published in the interwar period by Jan Izydor Sztudynger.

After the war, it was published periodically from 1950, with breaks, until the seventies. Reactivated in 1982, it is published four times a year, and, since 1996, in Polish and English, which makes it readable throughout Europe. The magazine deals primarily with puppet theatre, but issues raised in it also cover much wider theatrical areas (including alternative theatre, literature, fine arts, visual arts), which allows it to reach out to readers outside the puppetry community.



The editorial staff publishes articles about the theatre, gathering them into several basic sections: Essays, Festivals, Reviews, From the World, Profiles, Anniversaries, Recollections, Conversations, From the Author's Drawer, Publishers, Exhibitions, Schooling, Dramaturgy, Columns.

The editor-in-chief of the quarterly is Lucyna Kozień

Since May 2018, all magazines published and co-published by the Institute can be bought and subscribed to through the website [instytutksiazki.pl](http://instytutksiazki.pl) as well as on the platforms: [www.nexto.pl](http://www.nexto.pl), [www.egazety.pl](http://www.egazety.pl) and [www.e-kiosk.pl](http://www.e-kiosk.pl).

# MAK+ and SZUKAMKSIĄŻKI.PL

## MAK+

An electronic, integrated library system designed and developed by the Polish Book Institute. It enables the creation of an electronic library catalogue, the facility's user database, the registration of rentals and access to resources, as well as the maintenance of library statistics. Communication with the system is done through a web browser and is easy to use.

The basic feature that distinguishes MAK+ from other catalogue systems is the fact that the libraries catalogue and make their collections available simultaneously in two places: on their own website and on the website [szukamksiazki.pl](http://szukamksiazki.pl). As of 16th August 2020, almost 24 million copies of books are available on the website [szukamksiazki.pl](http://szukamksiazki.pl). On average, about four thousand books are added to it a day.

The MAK+ system is recommended by the National Library Council and is fully compliant with the MARC21 format; it meets the requirements of Regulation 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. Necessary physical, organisational, and hardware protection measures ensure the security of users' processed personal data.

MAK+ is always distributed as a complete library system, containing all currently available modules and functionalities, enabling comprehensive support of all processes related to the books and the readers in the library.

Currently, the MAK+ system offers the following modules: collection, catalogue, warehouse, rental, reading room, reports, inventory, and debt collection. MAK+ enables cataloguing of books, continuous publications, audiobooks, films, old prints, articles, sheet music, electronic documents, as well as sound, maps, graphics, board games, and puzzles.

The centralised nature of the system and the ability to implement remote updates make all libraries using the system work on the same, always latest version of the system, which greatly facilitates cooperation between libraries in the region. An important element of the centralisation of the MAK+ system is the source of bibliographic descriptions - the National Library catalogue.

Libraries and their branches with MAK+ system





Data and corrections coming from there are continuously migrated and constitute an integral part of the MAK+ system. Records created by libraries are added to a common database of descriptions, accessible to all users.

MAK+ offers the reader access to their library account via the Internet. This functionality enables

The readers of libraries where the MAK+ system has been implemented can use the same library card at each branch. Our experience shows that such convenience noticeably encourages readers to use the offerings of many facilities, for example libraries of one district.

Szukamksiążki.pl is the second largest website in Poland in terms of the number of catalogued books, with almost 24,000,000 books and more than 84,000 readers registered with MAK+.

checking information about borrowed items in all libraries using the MAK+ system from a web browser. It also allows you to search the contents of catalogues of all libraries at the same time, ordering/reserving books in a particular library, or electronic handling of rentals. From the user's account, you can also analyse the resources of libraries connected to the MAK+ system.

A significant convenience is the ability to browse the book collection in two ways: from the general level of OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog) available at the address: [szukamksiążki.pl](http://szukamksiążki.pl) and through the online catalogue on the library website. A link providing a preview of any book collection on the library website is generated automatically, without any additional costs.

## **SZUKAMKSIĄŻKI.PL**

A website enabling searching for items one is interested in from the database of libraries using the MAK+ system and offering access to library accounts. In March 2019, the Institute launched a new edition of the website.

Thanks to the use of much more efficient search algorithms, introduction of responsiveness (automatic adjustment of the appearance of the site to the width of the screen of the device on which it is displayed), and, above all, even more complete integration with the leading Polish web portal of readers [Lubimyczytać.pl](http://Lubimyczytać.pl), the new version of the site has all the advantages to outdo the current leader.

The main users of the service are readers wishing to borrow a desired book. The vast majority of visitors to [szukamksiążki.pl](http://szukamksiążki.pl) (about 2000 people a day) are those who have previously found an interesting item on the site [Lubimyczytać.pl](http://Lubimyczytać.pl). In the next step, these readers - with the help of a dedicated geolocation widget - check where the nearest library is located, where the desired item is available.

# CONTACT

We encourage you to contact us personally if you have any questions. We will be pleased to hear your proposals or suggestions.

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2021



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