

City University of New York (CUNY)

CUNY Academic Works

Publications and Research

York College

2011

Frank Mocha

John A. Drobnicki
CUNY York College

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

More information about this work at: https://academicworks.cuny.edu/yc_pubs/58

Discover additional works at: <https://academicworks.cuny.edu>

This work is made publicly available by the City University of New York (CUNY).
Contact: AcademicWorks@cuny.edu

and the Grand Army of the Republic veterans organization.—*James S. Pula*

SOURCES: John A. Kowalewski, "Capt. Mlotkowski of Ft. Delaware," *Polish American Studies*, Vol. XXIII, no. 2 (1966), 89–92; *Mlotkowski Memorial Room: Fort Delaware—Pea Patch Island* (Fort Delaware, DE: Captain Stanislaus Mlotkowski Memorial Brigade Society, ca. 1976); W. Emerson Wilson, *Fort Delaware* (Newark, DE: University of Delaware Press, 1957); Isaac W. K. Handy *United States Bonds; or Duress by Federal Authority: Journal During Imprisonment of Fifteen Months at Fort Delaware* (Baltimore: Turnbull Brothers, 1874), 403.

Mocha, Frank (Franciszek Mocha; b. Babice, Silesia, Poland, February 18, 1923; d. New York, New York, May 1, 2001). Philologist, educator. Mocha was in the Polish army when Germany invaded in 1939, then made his way to France to join the Polish army-in-exile. Captured in France in 1942, he spent three years in prisoner of war camps in Alsace (Neu Breisach), Bavaria (Stalag VIIA), and Austria (Stalag XVIIIB). Eventually escaping, he made his way over the Pyrenees to Gibraltar where he rejoined the Polish army in England. Following the war he studied economics and history at the University of London (1946–48) on a British government scholarship. He migrated to the United States in 1951, becoming a naturalized American citizen in 1956. While working as a proofreader for Retnak Press in New York City, he studied Slavic literature at Columbia University, from which he received a B.S. degree in 1961, *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa. He then pursued graduate studies at Columbia, receiving his M.A. as a National Defense Foreign Language Fellow in 1963, and a Ph.D. in 1970. Both his master's thesis and his doctoral dissertation were later published in *Antemurale*, the journal of the Polish Historical Institute in Rome.

Mocha's first academic appointment was teaching Polish and Russian at the University of Pittsburgh where he was instructor (1966–68) and then assistant professor (1968–71). During 1971–72, he was an exchange scholar in Russia through the International Research and Exchanges Board, and subsequently a research scholar at the *Kosciuszko Foundation* (1972–73). After teaching at New York University's School of Continuing Education (1974–76), where he developed courses on the U.S. Bicentennial, Mocha moved to the University of Illinois, Chicago Circle, where he was associate professor of Slavic languages and literature (1976–79). He then joined the faculty of Loyola University Chicago, where he was a lecturer in modern languages (1979–1982), and then adjunct professor of modern languages (1982–1984). He simultaneously held an appointment at the Chicago branch

of the *Polish University Abroad*, where he was Dean of Humanities and Professor of Slavic Philology (1979–84). Mocha retired from both institutions in 1984 to devote himself to writing full-time.

Mocha contributed articles and reviews to numerous scholarly journals, including the *Slavic Review*, the *Polish Review*, the *Slavic and East European Journal*, and a two-part memoir of his early years in Silesia in *Modern Age*. He presented papers at many scholarly conferences in both the United States and Europe, and was editor of two books: *Poles in America: Bicentennial Essays* (1978); and *American "Polonia" and Poland* (1998). Mocha was also co-editor of *Poland's Solidarity Movement* (1984), which contained papers presented at the International Symposium on Poland's Solidarity Movement held at Loyola University Chicago in 1982. He was active in numerous scholarly organizations, including the Modern Language Association, the *Polish American Historical Association*, the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, and the *Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America*, for whom he served on the Board of Directors (1974–77), was chair of the Literary Section (1974–77), and associate editor of the *Polish Review* (1973–75). Mocha was also president of the Polish Arts Club of Chicago (1977–79), a member of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Division of the *Polish American Congress* (1977–78), and president of the *Polish American Educators Association* (1981–84). He was quick to write letters to newspaper editors correcting errors and clarifying points, especially in articles on Polish topics.—*John Drobnicki*

SOURCE: *Who's Who in the Midwest, 1982–1983* (Chicago: Marquis Who's Who, 1982), 480.

Moczygamba, Leopold Bonaventura Maria (Moczygęba; b. Płużnica, Poland, October 18, 1824; d. Dearborn, Michigan, February 23, 1891). Priest. Born in Upper Silesia, Moczygamba is best remembered today as the founder of the first permanent Polish settlement in the United States at *Panna Maria*, Texas, in 1854. In later life he helped build the core of Franciscan Minor Conventual parishes and friaries in the eastern United States, was instrumental in establishing the *Polish Roman Catholic Union*, served the *Congregation of the Resurrection*, and with the Rev. *Joseph Dąbrowski* was one of the founders of the Polish Seminary in Detroit, Michigan.

Moczygamba grew up in the villages of Płużnica and Ligota Toszecka in the Opole Regency, part of Prussian Upper Silesia. He

attended German-operated schools in the market towns of Gliwice and Opole. Then in his early twenties, he made the momentous decision to become a priest, traveling to northern Italy in the fall of 1843 to begin his novitiate in the Friars Minor Conventual. Ordained on July 25, 1847, the order transferred him to Bavaria where he met the Rev. Jean-Marie Odin, Bishop of Galveston, who had come from America in 1852 to solicit aid and to recruit missionaries to serve in his diocese, which comprised the entire state of Texas. He made arrangements in Bavaria for the Friars Minor Conventual to care for several of his German immigrant parishes, and among the priests he brought back was twenty-nine-year-old Leopold Moczygamba, an ethnic Pole who was fluent in German. The young priest saw the material prosperity of his German parishioners and began writing letters home to family friends in Upper Silesia about the life he observed in the New World. In time he organized the movement of several parties of Poles from his home region to Texas. Starting to arrive in December 1854, they established at a place Moczygamba called *Panna Maria* the first permanent Polish settlement, Catholic parish, and Polish school in the United States. Moczygamba remained in Texas only through late 1857, when he departed for several months in Europe.

Moczygamba returned to the United States in November 1858, this time to the eastern states, where the Friars Minor Conventual had been given several German ethnic parishes. As the commissary general for a newly elevated canonical province of Friars, he worked with others to build parishes in places including Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Utica and Syracuse, New York; Louisville, Kentucky; and Jeffersonville, Indiana. Traveling to Europe in 1861, he came back with more money for the American efforts. He again went to Europe in 1868, this time spending two years, during which time he published a pocket ritual for use by missionary priests in America, *Enchiridion Sacerdotum Curam Animarum Agentium* (1870). Moczygamba received temporary excommunication from the Franciscans in 1870 in order to work outside the order in a diocesan parish to earn money to assist his aged mother. He then traveled back to America, where in early 1871 he became pastor in Litchfield, Illinois; in 1873 at Terre Haute, Indiana; in 1875 in Jeffersonville, Indiana; and in 1877 in Louisville, Kentucky. During this time Moczygamba became more involved with Polish immigrant life. He helped establish the *Polish Roman Catholic Union* and was elected its third president in 1875. His interest in working among Poles in part prompted the