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### Polish Anti-Defamation Committee

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nication with its members through a newsletter. In 2008 the mailing list to Polish American clergy included 3,690, plus all hierarchy and bishops in the United States and Poland.

Since the first national gathering of Polish American priests in 1990 at San Antonio, TX, each year over a hundred priests involved in Polish ministry and the Polish apostolate have gathered to pray, to share issues important to their ministry, and to update themselves on how to more effectively bring Christ to the people of God. The Association annually grants the Father Leopold Moczygemba Award.—*Frank B. Koper*

SOURCES: *Polish American Priests Association Constitution (P.A.P.A.)* (Orchard Lake, MI: The National Association of the Polish Apostolate, n.d.); the Rev. Msgr. Stanley E. Milewski, ed., *Polish American Priests Association PAPA Bulletin* (Orchard Lake, MI: The Orchard Lake Schools, December 2004–November 2007).

**Polish American String Band.** Organized in the Polish ethnic community in Philadelphia in 1933, by 2000 the band numbered more than 90 volunteer performers who combined Polish heritage with the traditions of the famous Philadelphia Mummers. Dressed in the elaborate, colorful costumes of the Mummers, the band consists of banjos, accordions, bells, and various bass, percussion, and saxophone instrumentation. It has played at social, political and sporting events throughout the United States, as well as appearing in Poland, Cuba, and elsewhere. Its record in the annual New Year's Day Philadelphia Mummers Parade is unprecedented, being honored with (by 2000) eleven first place finishes and fourteen second place recognitions, and finishing in the top ten 64 times. Its first place finishes are the most by any string band in the parade, and only twice in its long history of participation in the event has it finished out of the top ten.—*James S. Pula*

SOURCE: *Polish-American Association String Band* (Philadelphia: Polish-American Association String Band of Philadelphia, an annual periodical published since the early 1990s).

**Polish American Studies.** Published by the Polish American Historical Association continuously since 1944, *Polish American Studies* is a refereed scholarly journal that publishes articles, edited documents, reviews, and related materials dealing with all aspects of the history and culture of Poles in the Western Hemisphere. The preeminent publication dealing with Polish American history and culture, it is an interdisciplinary publication that accepts contributions from any discipline in the humanities and social sciences, and especially those that place the Polish experience in historical and comparative perspective by examining its relationship to other ethnic

groups. The journal is a member of the prestigious JSTOR and History Cooperative electronic databases and is regularly abstracted in *Historical Abstracts*, *America: History and Life*, and *The Catholic Periodical and Literature Index*. Sample acceptance rates include 36.4 percent in 2005, 47.2 percent in 2006, 28.6 percent in 2007, and 36.4 percent in 2008. The journal's editors have been Constantine Symonolewicz (1944–45), Joseph Swastek (1946–69), Ladislas J. Siekaniec (co-editor, 1968–69), Frank Renkiewicz (1969–81), and James S. Pula (1982–).—*James S. Pula*

SOURCES: Frank Mocha, "The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America: Its Contributions to the Study of Polonia: The Origins of the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA)," in Frank Mocha, ed., *Poles in America: Bicentennial Essays* (Stevens Point, WI: Worzalla Publishing Company, 1978), 709–24; [polishamericanstudies.com](http://polishamericanstudies.com).

#### Polish Anti-Defamation Committee.

Several committees of the Polish American Congress had used *anti-defamation* in their title, but one of the most vocal groups was the Polish American Congress Anti-Defamation Committee of California. The group was founded in 1986, with Teodor Polak as chair, after the California State Education Department proposed a mandatory model curriculum on Human Rights and Genocide which neglected the treatment of Poles during World War II. The group's lobbying proved successful when a Polish section was added to the final version of the curriculum that was adopted for use in the state's public schools. The Anti-Defamation Committee also publicized and protested any slights directed toward Poles, especially those in the media. Any time a magazine, newspaper, or television program referred to "Polish death camps" or made a Polish joke, a letter or press release from the Committee would follow, and an article about the slight or slur would appear in the group's newsletter, *Alert*, edited for many years by Artur Zygmunt. In 1993, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith went to court claiming that it had exclusive use of the service mark "anti-defamation," and the central office of the Polish American Congress in Chicago eventually agreed to abandon further use of the name, leading the California group to change its name in 1995 to the Polish American Defense Committee (PADC). Strongly believing that Poles were co-victims of the Holocaust along with Jews, the group defended the presence of the Carmelite convent at Auschwitz and criticized authors (Jerzy Kosiniński and Yaffa Eliach), books (*Maus* and *Neighbors*), films (*Shoah* and *Schindler's List*) and subjects (Kielce and Jedwabne) which they felt presented a biased view of Polish-Jewish relations. In 1999, the PADC joined

with the Polish American Congress and six Polish victims in filing a motion to include Poles among the victims of Nazi persecution who would receive \$1.25 billion in a Swiss bank settlement. However, the motion was denied, as was the appeal.—*John Drobnicki*

SOURCES: Eugene Kusielewicz, "B'nai B'rith Versus the Poles," *Polish American Journal* (December 1992), 4; Teodor Polak, "Polish Victims of the Holocaust Excluded from the Swiss Banks Settlement by New York Judge," *Alert*, no. 22 (June 2000), 1; "We're Still Here February 1995," *Alert*, no. 16 (Feb. 1995), 1–2; Artur Zygmunt, "Polish American Congress Anti-Defamation Committee of California: Prevent Defamation of Poles and Polish Americans and the Distortion of Polish History," in *Polish Americans in California*, Volume II (National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs & Polish American Historical Association, 1995).

#### Polish Army in France ("Haller's Army").

When the United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, the dream of an independent Poland advanced toward realization. Polish immigrants in America, especially the Polish Falcons, had, from the start of World War I, struggled for this goal. What had seemed a faint possibility now appeared closer to being accomplished. Ignacy Jan Paderewski, whom many recognized as the voice of Poland in America, addressed the Falcons in Pittsburgh later that month. He proposed the creation of "Kościuszko's Army," consisting of 100,000 men who would fight as part of the American Expeditionary Force. Canada, at Britain's bidding, was already secretly training 23 Falcons to serve as officers in a future Polish military unit. Three of these men, in uniform, also spoke at the same meeting.

The idea of an ethnic unit in the American army had no prospect of success from the start for various reasons. But France took advantage of Polish aspirations, and in early June formally established the Polish Army in France by presidential decree. In August the French sent a delegation to America to negotiate recruitment of Polish immigrants for the army. It included Wacław Gąsiorowski, head of the Falcons in France, whose assignment was to work out the details with the Polish National Department (Wydział Narodowy). France's unilateral proclamation of the army pleased neither Britain nor the United States, but by October both reluctantly agreed to cooperate with their ally in the matter. Recruitment formally began that month in Chicago, even though volunteers left for the Polish Army camp at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, before the public inauguration of the effort. The Falcons were ready to do their duty for Poland as they saw it and predominated among the first volunteers.

The camp, a summer bivouac for the Canadian Army, was hastily prepared to accommodate the recruits. Colonel Arthur D'Orr