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Robert Prosky

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Eagle) edited by the Rev. Aleksander Matauszek and Ignacy Wenzdziński in Missouri beginning in 1870. The latter only lasted two years, but was replaced by *Pielgrzym* (Pilgrim), published and edited by Jan Barzyński, which subsequently became the respected *Gazeta Polska Katolicka* (Polish Catholic Gazette) in Detroit.

One of the leading liberal, anti-clerical publications was *Ameryka-Echo* founded in Toledo by Antoni Paryski in 1889. Often referred to as the "Polish Hearst," Paryski was a very talented individual who popularized folk literature while at the same time engaging in "Yellow Journalism" rivaling that of William Randolph Hearst. Paryski produced hundreds of thousands of copies of books, pamphlets, and other publications that his traveling agents sold throughout Polonia. Other anti-clerical publications included such journals as the weekly *Gwiazda Polarna* (The Northern Star), the New York organ of the Polish Socialist Alliance in America *Robotnik Polski* (The Polish Worker), and the leftist *Dziennik Ludowy* (The People's Daily) which later became *Głos Ludowy* (The People's Voice) published by the Polish Bureau of the Communist Party of the United States.

The first Polish daily in the United States was *Kuryer Polski* (Polish Courier) founded in Milwaukee in 1888 by Michał Kruszką. To counter influence of *Ameryka-Echo* and *Kuryer Polski*, the Resurrectionist Order in Chicago founded *Dziennik Chicagoski* (Chicago Daily News) in 1890, one of the best and most popular of Polish newspapers. Another popular publication was Detroit's *Dziennik Polski* (The Polish Daily News), as was the conservative Catholic *Polak w Ameryce* (The Pole in America) founded in Buffalo by the Rev. Jan Pitass.

The *Polish American Journal* was the first English language Polish-American newspaper with nation-wide appeal. Gradually, as the second generation gave way to the third, many publications followed the lead of Kruszką's *Kuryer Polski* which added an English-language supplement in 1939 to appeal to Polish Americans of the younger generations.

The Polish press provided valuable information to immigrants in America, keeping them in touch with the Old Country and assisting them in their transition to American society. In addition, it also served to solidify Polonia, increase ethnic self-awareness and informed public opinion. In 2010, leading Polish American newspapers included *Nowy Dziennik*, *Zgoda*, *Naród Polski*, *Dziennik Związkowy*, *Polish American Journal*, and *Gwiazda Polarna*. — James S. Pula

SOURCES: Anthony J. Kuzniewski, "The Polish-

American Press," in Sally M. Miller, ed., *The Ethnic Press in the United States* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1987); Jan Kowalik, *The Polish Press in America* (San Francisco: R & E Research, 1978), 39–40; Bernard Pacyniak, "An Historical Outline of the Polish Press in America," in Frank Mocha, ed., *Poles in America: Bicentennial Essays* (Stevens Point, WI: Worzalla Publishing Company, 1978), 509–30; Samuel Bonikowski, "The Polish Press in Wisconsin," *Polish American Studies*, Vol. II, no. 1–2 (1945), 12–23; Eugene Obidinski, "The Polish American Press: Survival through Adaptation," *Polish American Studies*, Vol. 34, no. 2 (1977), 38–55; Alphonse S. Wolanin, *The Polish Press* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1952); Lubomyr Wynar, *Encyclopedia Directory of Ethnic Newspapers and Periodicals in the United States* (Littleton, CO: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1972).

Prokop, Stanley A. (b. Throop, Pennsylvania, July 29, 1909; d. Lake Ariel, Pennsylvania, November 11, 1977). Congressman. Educated in the public schools in Throop and Dickson City, PA, Prokop earned B.A. and B.S. degrees from Villanova University. During World War II he served in the army's 30th Infantry Division, rising from private to captain. Following the war he served as supervisor of Lackawanna, PA, before being elected as a Democrat to the Eighty-sixth Congress (January 3, 1959–January 3, 1961). After an unsuccessful bid for reelection, he served as a member of the Board of Assessment Appeals of Lackawanna County and for fourteen years as director of veterans' affairs for the county. — James S. Pula

SOURCE: *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774–Present* (<http://bioguide.congress.gov/>).

Prosky, Robert (Robert Joseph Porzuczek; b. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, December 13, 1930; d. Washington, D.C., December 8, 2008). Actor. Born into a Polish immigrant family, Prosky's introduction to the theater came as stage manager for a production of *Our Town* while he attended Roxborough High School. After graduating from Temple University in 1952, where he continued his involvement in student productions, he enlisted in the Air Force during the Korean War. Following his discharge he dabbled in local community theatre, including the Old Academy Players, then entered and won a televised talent contest run by Michael Ellis. This led to a professional summer stock production at Ellis' Bucks County Playhouse (1955) alongside Walter Matthau and William Windom. Prosky then earned a New York Drama League scholarship to study for two years at the American Theatre Wing's School in New York, where he worked as a bookkeeper during the day at the Federal Reserve Bank and acted in off Broadway shows at night. In 1958 he won a part in the Arena Stage (Washington, D.C.) production of *The Front Page*. In twenty-three seasons at Arena Stage (1958–82), Prosky appeared in over 130 roles includ-

ing Willy Loman (*Death of a Salesman*) and Galileo Galilei (*Galileo*). Arena Stage, the first American theatre company to tour the Soviet Union (1973), provided Prosky with both a steady income and job security to raise a family in Washington, D.C. A role as a mobster in the 1981 film *Thief* led to additional Hollywood supporting roles (*Monsignor: The Natural*), and then to a Tony-nominated role as Shelly Levene in David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross* (1984), which won a Special Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Ensemble Performance. When actor Michael Conrad, who played Sgt. Phil Esterhaus on *Hill Street Blues*, died in 1983, Prosky joined the cast as Sgt. Stan Jablonski from 1984 to 1987. Ironically, Prosky had earlier turned down the role of Coach in *Cheers* in 1982, not wanting to sign a long-term contract that would interfere with his family life. Prosky earned a second Tony nomination in 1988 for his role as Botvink in Lee Blessing's *A Walk in the Woods*, for which he also received an Outer Critics Circle Award. Among his other awards are the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Resident Play (1995), the American Express Tribute to an American Actor (1998), and the Jewish Council for Aging's Productive Aging Award (2006). Although he played both priests and Jewish roles during his long acting career, Prosky was baptized an Episcopalian, though descended from Roman Catholics. — John Drobnicki

SOURCES: Laurence Hooper, "The Grocer's Kid: Tony Award Nominee Robert Prosky is a Working Staff of Stage and Screen," *Philadelphia*, Vol. 79 (October 1988); Simi Horwitz, "Face to Face: Robert Prosky. Defying God in 'The Golem,'" *Back Stage*, Vol. 43 (April 19, 2002); and Diana McLellan, "Do You Know Me? Robert Prosky Perfected His Craft at Arena Stage. Now He's Learning to be a Star," *Washingtonian*, Vol. 28 (August 1993).

Przybyszewski, Walenty "Val" (b. Poland, February 1862; d. Michigan, February 24, 1924). Polonia activist. Migrating to America in 1873, he settled in the heavily Polish town of Bay City, Michigan. A fiery leader who was active in both local politics and Polish patriotic affairs, Przybyszewski organized the St. Casimir Society, Group 12 of the Polish National Alliance in 1880, becoming the 312th member of the Alliance. Elected PNA vice censor (or deputy chief judge) in 1885, he won election as president at the 1886 PNA convention held in Bay City. Through his efforts, the entire PNA board of directors elected at this convention came from Bay City and Przybyszewski succeeded in having the national headquarters of the Alliance moved there from Chicago for the one and only time in its history that it was located outside Chicago. At the next PNA annual convention