

INTRODUCTION

The Institute of National Remembrance (*Instytut Pamięci Narodowej*, IPN) is launching a new academic journal entitled *Polish-Jewish Studies* (PJS). This will be an annual periodical published in Polish and English, devoted to Polish-Jewish relations and the history of the Jewish community in Poland in the twentieth century.

Research on the history of the Jewish people in Poland has drawn the interest of academics affiliated to various research institutions in Poland and abroad for many years, and the IPN is one of them. Due to the specific nature of this institution, our research has been focused mainly on the issue of the Holocaust and Polish-Jewish relations during World War II. Numerous academic, popular and educational publications have been issued under the auspices of the IPN.¹

¹ The most important publications (chronologically) include: *Wokół Jedwabnego*, vol. 1–2, ed. P. Machcewicz, K. Persak, Warsaw 2002; *Akcja Reinhardt. Zagłada Żydów w Generalnym Gubernatorstwie*, ed. D. Libionka, Warsaw 2004; *Polacy i Żydzi pod okupacją niemiecką 1939–1945. Studia i materiały*, ed. A. Żbikowski, Warsaw 2006; *Wokół pogromu kieleckiego*, ed. Ł. Kamiński, J. Żaryn, Warsaw 2006; *Wokół pogromu kieleckiego*, vol. 2, ed. L. Bukowski, A. Jankowski, J. Żaryn, Warsaw 2008; *Zagłada Żydów na polskich terenach wcielonych do Rzeszy*, ed. A. Namysło, Warsaw 2008; E. Rączy, *Pomoc Polaków dla ludności żydowskiej na Rzeszowszczyźnie 1939–1945*, Rzeszów 2008; *Kto w takich czasach Żydów przechowuje?...*. *Polacy niosący pomoc ludności żydowskiej w okresie okupacji niemieckiej*, ed. A. Namysło, Warsaw 2009; *Elity i przedstawiciele społeczności żydowskiej podczas II wojny światowej*, ed. M. Grądzka-Rejak, A. Namysło, Cracow – Katowice – Warsaw 2017; *The Holocaust and Polish-Jewish relations*, ed. M. Grądzka-Rejak, A. Sitarek, Warsaw 2018. A detailed list of publications in Polish and English may be found in the catalogue of IPN publications entitled *Zagłada Żydów i stosunki polsko-żydowskie podczas II wojny światowej*, encompassing the years 2000–2016 (Warsaw 2019). See <https://ipn.gov.pl/pl/publikacje/katalog-publicacji/43598,Zagłada-Zydow-i-stosunki-polsko-zydowskie-podczas-II-wojny-swiatowej-katalog-pub.html>, accessed April 2020.

Recently, our institution has carried out research as part of a programme entitled 'IPN Central Research Project. The history of Jews in Poland and Polish-Jewish relations in the years 1914–1989'. Dorota Koczwańska-Kalita, PhD, head of the IPN's Delegation in Kielce and the founder of this journal, has overseen an intensification of research into Jewish culture and history from the very beginning.

The aim of the Editorial Board is to present national, international and regional research, as well as introduce the readers to initiatives aimed at preserving the memory of the Polish Jews. These motivations have contributed to our founding of this journal which, as we hope, will become a forum for the exchange of academic thought within Jewish studies for all researchers, including those not affiliated with the IPN.

We would like both to expand the research already undertaken and to include other topics and issues that illustrate both the positive and negative experiences of both nations. This approach has been facilitated by, among others, the amendment of the 2016 IPN Act, which broadens the statutory scope of the institution's activity to the period 1917–1939.²

The first issue of *PJS* examines some of the important issues that we would like to develop in the future. This volume has been divided into three sections: Studies, Reviews/Polemics, and Chronicles. The papers presented within the first section concern the events of the World War II. First and foremost, the studies that expand the understanding and research scope with reference to Poles helping Jews during the genocide need to be mentioned: Sebastian Piątkowski's "Aryan Papers". On the help provided by Poles in legalising false identities for Jews in the territory of the General Governorate for the occupied Polish Regions' and Alicja Gontarek's 'Polish diplomatic and consular representation in Havana and the case of Jewish refugees in Cuba during the World War II'. The article by Jarosław Tomaszewicz ('The Jewish question in the political thought of *Obóz Narodowy* [The National Camp] in 1939–1945') summarises the existing records on the attitudes of the National Camp towards the Jews, and Maciej Żuczkowski's article 'Publications of the Polish Socialist Party: Freedom, Equality, Independence and the Jews during World War II' describes Jewish themes in the Polish socialist press, one of the

² See *Dziennik Ustaw RP* 2016, 1575, p. 5.

most important currents of the wartime Underground. Post-war retributions against persons who had committed crimes against the Jews, on the example of the Wodzisław murders, are discussed by Tomasz Domański in ‘The August Decree trial records of *Polnische Polizei* officers from Wodzisław accused of committing crimes against Jews’.

Important findings for primary source analyses are collated in the Reviews section. There is a particularly interesting and richly polemical review written by Ryszard Śmietanka-Kruszelnicki of a book entitled *Pod klątwą*³ by Joanna Tokarska-Bakir. This section also contains a review of Wolfgang Curilla’s *Der Judenmord in Polen*,⁴ by Wojciech Wichert. In the context of reviews and polemics, the first issue also features ‘Korekta obrazu?’ by Tomasz Domański, a response to the authors and editors of the book *Dalej jest noc*.⁵

The last section, entitled Chronicles, presents a report from the *Nations of Occupied Europe Facing the Holocaust* conference held in Warsaw on 6–8 December 2017. The section also contains two papers: on restoring the memory of the Jews from Staszów, as well as the re-establishment of relations between Poles and Jews based on the Day of Judaism in Chmielnik.

We hope that the issues addressed in *PJS* will meet with a lively response from the academic community. We encourage historians and researchers from related areas interested in Jewish studies to submit their papers. We are also open to young researchers, those passionate about local history, and teachers. Everyone is invited to share their research and activities within the pages of our annual.

On behalf of the Editorial Board
Tomasz Domański, PhD

³ J. Tokarska-Bakir, *Pod klątwą. Społeczny portret pogromu kieleckiego*, vol. 1, vol. 2: *Dokumenty*, Warsaw 2018.

⁴ W. Curilla, *Der Judenmord in Polen und die deutsche Ordnungspolizei 1939–1945*, Verlag: Ferdinand Schöningh, Paderborn – München – Wien – Zürich 2011.

⁵ *Dalej jest noc. Losy Żydów w wybranych powiatach okupowanej Polski*, vol. 1–2, ed. B. Engelking, J. Grabowski, Warsaw 2018.