

OSCAR E. SWAN

Current position: Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh

Date of Appointment: 1974

Degrees: A.B. Princeton University, 1964. M.A., University of California, Berkeley, 1966.  
Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, 1972

Areas of specialization: Polish Language, Literature, and Culture. Polish Cinema. Slavic Linguistics and Lexicography. Old Church Slavic, Russian Linguistics. Computer-Aided Instruction.

Sample of courses taught: Elementary Polish I; Elementary Polish II; Intermediate Polish III; Intermediate Polish IV; Advanced Polish V; Advanced Polish VI; Polish over the World Wide Web; Polish Through Film; Polish Reading and Translation; The Polish Short Story; Survey of Polish Literature; Modern Polish Literature. The "Dekalog" by Krzysztof Kieslowski. Structure of Russian; Russian Morphology; Old Church Slavic; Topics in Slavic Linguistics: Case and Voice. Historical Russian Grammar.

Director, Summer Slavic Language Institute, University of Pittsburgh, 1988-present (with intervals for leaves).

Selected Book-Length Publications

*Rescued from the Ashes: The Diary of Leokadia Schmidt, Survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto.*

Translated and historical notes by Oscar E. Swan (Oegstgeest, The Netherlands: Amsterdam Publishers, 2019).

*Polish Customs and Culture in the Reign of the Last Saxon King* by Jędrzej Kitowicz, translated and with an introduction and commentary by Oscar E. Swan. Central Eastern European University Press, 2019.

*Kaleidoscope of Poland: A Cultural Encyclopedia.* Pittsburgh: Univ. of Pittsburgh Press, spring 2015

*A Reader in Contemporary Polish,* London: Routledge Publishers, 2014

*Concise Dictionary of Old Russian* by Horace G. Lunt, Liberally edited and updated by Oscar E. Swan. Bloomington, IN: Slavica. 2012.

*Russian Sounds and Inflections.* Columbus, Ohio: Bloomington, Indiana: Slavica, 2011

*Polish Verbs & Essentials of Grammar.* McGraw-Hill Publishers, September 2008.

*Old Church Slavic 1: Inflectional Morphology.* Oakland, CA: Berkeley Slavic Specialties, July, 2008

*Old Church Slavic 2: Reader.* Oakland, CA: Berkeley Slavic Specialties, 2008

*Old Church Slavic 3: Glossary.* Oakland, CA: Berkeley Slavic Specialties, 2008

*Holy Week* by Jerzy Andrzejewski. A translation from the Polish, Ohio University Press, 2007

*Tales of My Wife*. A Polish glossed reader. Bloomington, Indiana: Slavica Publishers, 2006

*Grammar of Contemporary Polish*. A Reference Grammar. Columbus, Ohio: Slavica, 2002. Awarded best work in Slavic Linguistics by AATSEEL, 2004

*W labiryncie (Labyrinth of Life)*, with Wiesław Oleksy. Columbus, Ohio: Slavica, 1993

*Beginning Slovak*. with Silvia Galova-Lorinc. Columbus, Ohio: Slavica, 1990

*Intermediate Polish*. Columbus, Ohio: Slavica, 1986

*A Private War: Surviving in Poland on False Papers, 1941-1945* by Bruno Szatyn, translated by Oscar E. Swan (Milwaukee: Wayne State University Press, 1985)

*A Concise Grammar of Polish*. Washington, D.C.: Univ. Press of America, 1983

*First Year Polish*. Columbus, Ohio: Slavica, 1980

#### Under Consideration

*Polski kodeks honoru* [the Polish Code of Honor] by Władysław Boziewicz, tr. and with an Introduction by Oscar E. Swan. Under consideration by Bellona Publishers.

#### Web-Based Dictionary

[A Student's Polish-English, English Dictionary](http://lektorek.org/polish/), by Oscar Swan, with Nicholas Reimer, programmer. Currently at < <http://lektorek.org/polish/>>. One of the world's most widely used Polish-English, English-Polish internet dictionaries. Includes complete inflections of words, a usage reference guide, and a text translation tool.

Recent double-blind peer-reviewed hard-copy journal articles, since 2010:

“Sketching the Russian Tense-Aspect System” *The Slavic and East European Journal* 64/4, winter 2018, 825-843.

“Jędrzej Kitowicz and his Description of Eighteenth-Century Polish Culture: an Introduction and Three Excerpts” *The Polish Review* 62/2, 2017, 24-53.

“Why it May Not Be Important Whether Aspectual Prefixes are Empty or Not.” review article on Janda et al. *Why Russian Aspectual Prefixes are not Empty: Prefixes as Verb Classifiers*. *Russian Language Journal*. 2015.

“Polish ‘Partner Nouns’,” *Slavic and East European Journal*. 59/3. 2015.

*Oboje* ‘both-collective’: “Normative Grammar, the Polish National Corpus, Google, and Contemporary Standard Polish”. *Polish Review*. 60/3. 2015.

“Aspect and the Russian Verbal Base”. *Russian Language Journal*, 2015.

“Polish Gender, Subgender, and Quasi-Gender”. *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*. 22.2., 2015

“How Important is Explanation? A Response”. *Slavic and East European Journal*, 2015, 58.2, 307-321.

“Sarah Palin był duży błąd: Anne Applebaum and the in situ Learning of Polish” *Slavic and East European Journal* vol. 58.1. 2013

“The Polish Duel and Its Last Apologia: Władysław Boziewicz’s *Polski kodeks honorowy*. *The Polish Review* 58/1, 2013.

“Why budu?” *Russian Linguistics*, vol. 36, No. 3: 2012.

“Symbolic Play in K. Kiesłowski’s Dekalog III” *The Polish Review*, vol. LV, No. 4, 2010: 403-441.

Article in process: “Profiling the Russian IGF (общефактическое значение несовершенного вида)”

#### Recent Book Review

*Po polsku na wyspach: poradnik dla rodziców dwujęzycznych dzieci*. London: Wydawnictwo PUNO, 2015. Forthcoming in *The Polish Review*, winter 2018.

#### Awards

Distinguished Service Award, American Council for Polish Culture, 2016

Polonian of the Year Award, Pittsburgh Polish Cultural Council. 2014

Thesaurus Poloniae Award. Senior fellow at the Center of International Culture, Kraków, summer 2010. First American selected in ten years of the award’s existence.

Polonicum Award from University of Warsaw for most outstanding contribution to the promulgation of Polish language, literature, and culture outside Poland. University of Warsaw, November 2007.

Best work in Slavic Linguistics, 2004 for *A Grammar of Contemporary Polish*. Awarded by American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages.

Amicus Poloniae award by Poland magazine and the People’s Republic of Poland for Intermediate Polish and life’s work, 1986.

#### Fundraising

§ Established the Slovak Language Endowment, currently worth in excess of \$1,500,000.

- § Established the Endowed Fund for Polish Studies, currently valued at \$120,000.
- § Established the Croatian Language Endowment, currently worth over \$45,000 and recently augmented by a 5-year commitment to contribute an additional \$5,000 per year, with possible future contributions.
- § Established the Ukrainian Language Endowment., currently valued at ca. \$100,000.
- § Established, in connection with the Summer Slavic Language Institute, the Ivan Elagin Fellowship for graduate study in Russian. Since 1988 this fellowship has been fully funding a graduate student fellowship to help attract the best incoming students to the University of Pittsburgh's Slavic Department.

### Summer Slavic Language Institute

Founder and director, since 1988 of what has become the largest summer institute for the study of Slavic and East European Languages in the United States. This institute:

- a. Contributes some 1000 credit hours of productivity per year to the Department of Slavic Languages.
- b. Funds the Ivan Elagin Graduate Studies Fellowship
- c. Affords Pitt students the opportunity to study the languages of the Slavic and East European area alongside students of other major American universities, most of them with study-abroad opportunities.
- d. Provides the institutional framework that enables the Russian and East European Language Center to develop its US Army-supported Project GO initiative, involving the training of ROTC students in Russian and Turkish.