

OSCAR E. SWAN
CURRICULUM VITAE
JANUARY 26, 2024

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, 1988-2022 (with intervals for leaves).

Selected Book-Length Publications

The Short Story in a Polish Context. New York: PIASA Books, 2024. An anthology that shows how the short-fiction genre evolved in Poland, *The Short Story in a Polish Context* contains selections belonging to the Polish short-story canon throughout the ages. Edited and with historical and cultural commentary by Oscar E. Swan.

Rescued From the Ashes: The Warsaw Ghetto Diary of Leokadia Schmidt. Translated and with introduction 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. Budapest: 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

Web-Based Dictionary

A Student's Polish-English, English Dictionary, 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. This dictionary is currently undergoing a major revision and upgrade.

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.

Recent Book Reviews

Languages and Silence in the German-Polish Borderland (2015) by Vann, Elizabeth R.. New York: PIASA Books. 2015. *The Polish Review*.

Pan Tadeusz, or the Last Foray in Lithuania. [Pan Tadeusz, czyli ostatni zajazd na Litwie] by Adam Mickiewicz, translated from the Polish by Bill Johnston. paperback, 496 pages. *The Polish Review*, summer 2020.

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

Awards

- Officer’s Cross of the Order of Service to the Republic of Poland, 2019
- Lifetime Achievement Award, Pittsburgh Chapter of the Kościuszko Foundation, 2019
- Distinguished Service Award, American Council for Polish Culture, 2016
- Commendation by the Mayor of Pittsburgh for Service to the Pittsburgh Polish Community and for the publication of *Kaleidoscope of Poland*, 2016
- Polonian of the Year Award, Pittsburgh Polish Cultural Council. 2014
- Thesaurus Poloniae Award. Senior fellow at the Center of International Culture, Kraków, 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*, judged to be the best contribution to the study of Polish abroad, 1986.

Fundraising undertaken at my initiative:

- § Established the Slovak Language Endowment, currently worth in excess of \$1,500,000.
- § Established the Endowed Fund for Polish Studies, currently valued at \$700,000. Upon my graduation, this endowment will be brought up by me to in excess of one million dollars, and it will be dedicated to the continuation of the teaching of Polish language, literature, and culture at the University into the future.
- § Established the Croatian Language Endowment, currently worth over \$70,000.
- § 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, 1988-2022, of what has become one of the largest summer institutes for the study of Slavic, East European. And Eurasian 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, which has contributed over \$1,000,000 in support of graduate study in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.
- 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.

Due to my efforts, three permanent faculty positions will have been established in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures:

The Position of Slovak Language, Literature, and Culture, funded by the Slovak Endowment and currently occupied by Renata Kamenarova.

The Position of Managing Director of the Summer Language Institute, which is two-thirds self funded by the Summer Language Institute, and currently occupied by Kathleen Manukyan.

The position of Teaching Professor of Polish Language, Literature, and Culture, to be filled upon my retirement.