Oscar E. Swan: Selected Polish-Related Book-Length Publications and Scholarly Journal Articles

Rescued From the Ashes: The Diary of Leokadia Schmidt, Survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto. Translation and historical notes by Oscar E. Swan. (Oegstgeest, the Netherlands: Amsterdam Publishers, 2019). The eyewitness account of a Jewish housewife who, together with her husband and five-month-old baby, fled the Warsaw ghetto at the last possible moment and survived the Holocaust hidden on the “Aryan” side of town in the loft of a run-down tinsmith’s shed.

Customs and Culture in Poland under the Last Saxon King. The major texts of Obyczaje i kultura Polski za panowania Augusta II by Jędrzej Kitowicz. Translation, introduction, and critical commentary by Oscar E. Swan. (Budapest: Central European University Press, 2018). The first translation into English of this celebrated memoir of the raucous and at times raunchy cultural life of eighteenth century Poland as the country headed into 123 years of national obliteration under the partitions. “Professor Swan’s faithful and fluent translation, accompanied by copious explanatory footnotes, allows the reader to become a kind of participant-observer of the details of every-day life (religious practice, eating and drinking, child rearing, military service and much more)” —from a review.
**Kaleidoscope of Poland: A Cultural Encyclopedia** (Pittsburgh: Univ. of Pittsburgh Press, spring 2015). Foreword by Adam Zamoyski. An accessible and pleasurable way to learn about the persons, events, ethnicities, cultural movements, and landscapes that have shaped the more than 1000 years of Polish history and culture.

Holy Week by Jerzy Andrzejewski. A translation from the Polish (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2007). “No other Polish novel treats the range of Polish attitudes toward the Jews during World War II with such unflinching honesty. Presented here with thoughtful and compelling commentary by translator Oscar Swan” (from a review).

Tales of My Wife. A Polish glossed reader (Bloomington: Slavica Publishers, 2006). The wide-ranging settings and rich vocabulary of these anecdotal and intellectually provocative short stories make this collection especially suitable for introducing students to the written variant of contemporary standard Polish and generating stimulating classroom discussions about the subjects raised.

A Private War by Bruno Shatyn. Translated by Oscar E. Swan, with forward by Norman Davies. (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1983). The true memoirs of a Jewish lawyer from Kraków who survived World War II on false papers, disguised as an estate manager on the estate of and under the protection of the aristocratic Potocki family.

Intermediate Polish (Bloomington, IN: Slavica, 1986). Awarded the Amicus Poloniae prize by Poland Magazine for its contribution to Polish language teaching worldwide.
First Year Polish, second edition (Bloomington, IN: Slavica, 1981). For more than thirty years a standard for Polish language instruction both in the classroom and at home.

Recent Journal Articles


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


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

