



Bożena and Jerzy Wyrozumski

separation – next to each other rather than together. Poles did not understand Yiddish and many Jews did not speak Polish.

Prof. Chwalba concentrated on the dark period of World War II and the post-war persecutions of the Jews. After the Nazis had entered Kraków on 6 September 1939 they wanted to get rid of its Jewish inhabitants. Governor Hans Frank thought that Jews should be expelled from the city as soon as possible. He assumed that only Germans would live in the city centre whereas Poles and Jews should be moved to the other side of the river. He introduced the compulsion of wearing David's stars by Jews. The first phase of repressions against the Jews assumed legal, personal and property degradation and propaganda concerning the Germans (mentality of killers) and the Jews (mentality of slaves contrasting them with insects and pests). The Jews had the dilemma whether to escape to the Soviets or to go to the Germans. They believed that the Germans would not kill them as they had not exterminated Jews during World War I. The Nazis decided to create a ghetto in the Kraków district of Podgórze from where they removed 3,500 Poles on 3 March 1941. Within two weeks there were 12,000 Jews in the ghetto and the number increased to ca. 20,000. The conditions in the ghetto were terrible. In March 1942 the Nazis decided to exterminate all Jews. In 1942 they transported ca. 14,000 Jews to the death camp in Bełżec. In December 1942 they began enlarging the camp in the Kraków district of Płaszów. At the same time many Cracovians helped the Jews to hide. The 'Żegota' Council to Aid to Jews in Occupied Poland 1942-45 helped 1,100 Jews in Kraków. Moreover, many Catholic priests, including Cardinal Sapieha, and women's convents hid Jewish adults and children. The Kraków ghetto was liquidated on 13-14 March 1943. 2,000 Jews were killed on the spot, mainly at the Zgoda Square, which is now called the Ghetto Heroes' Square. The remaining 3,000 were transported to the camps of Auschwitz and Płaszów. In the camp of Płaszów ca. 1,000 Jews survived thanks to Oskar Schindler who managed to transport them to other labour camps, which allowed them to stay there till the end of the war.

Prof. Chwalba stressed that describing the occupation one should use the totalitarian language. The machine of totalitarianism was supported by ruthless propaganda. After the war Jews regarded Poland a cemetery, i.e., place that one should leave. Therefore, after the war many Jews escaped from Poland, especially that there were many anti-Semitic actions. At the end of his speech Prof. Chwalba mentioned the congress of historians to be held in Kraków in 2012.

Conferral of the Stanisław Musiał, SJ, Award

The second part of the ceremony was conducted by Prof. Wiesław Kozub-Ciembroniewicz, the President of the Christians and Jews' Club 'Covenant' and a professor in the JU Institute of Political Sciences and International Relationships. The Stanisław Musiał, SJ, Award was established in 2009 and is given in two categories. Its founders are the JU Rector and the President of Kraków.

Fr Stanisław Musiał SJ (May 22, 1938 – March 5, 2004) was a pioneer and eminent leader of Catholic-Jewish dialogue and Polish-Jewish reconciliation. A long-time member of *Tygodnik Powszechny* Catholic weekly editorial board, he also directed Kraków's Apostleship of Prayer Publishing House in the years immediately following the Solidarity revolution in Poland. As a journalist he wrote numerous articles for the local press on issues such as anti-Semitism, Catholic-Jewish and Polish-Jewish relationships. As a member of the Episcopal Commission for Dialogue with Judaism from its foundation in 1986 until 1997, Fr. Musiał played a key role in organizing and facilitating a Geneva meeting of Catholic and Jewish leaders that led to the 1987 agreement resolving the conflict over the Carmelite Convent at Auschwitz. He was the Church's powerful advocate for tolerance and mutual understanding between the two religions, most intensely devoted to fighting anti-Semitism and Xenophobia. Fr. Musiał was also a member of the board of the Geneva-based United Nations Watch and the Kraków Judaica Foundation – Centre for Jewish Culture.

The award for intellectual activities promoting the Christian-Jewish and Polish-Jewish dialogue was conferred on Prof. Bożena Wyrozumska and Prof. Jerzy Wyrozumski, professors connected with the Jagiellonian University and the Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters. They contributed to the development of the research on Polish Jewry, especially the Jews in Kraków; they promoted Jewish studies and improved the Polish-Jewish relationships. At the Jagiellonian University Prof. Wyrozumski was a pioneer of didactic activities concerning the history of the Polish Jews. In the academic year 1983/84 he began open lectures on the history of Polish Jewry in the Institute of History, which were very popular with students. Prof. Bożena Wyrozumska has written many publications on the history of Polish Jews. She focused on the Jewish surnames in the Medieval registries of Kraków and discussed the difficult subjects concerning the Christian-Jewish relations in Kraków and Wrocław.

In the second category – social activities promoting the Christian-Jewish and Polish-Jewish dialogue – the award was conferred on Tomasz Pietrasiewicz and the 'Brama Grodzka-Teatr NN' Centre in Lublin. Mr Pietrasiewicz has initiated the centre and realised numerous educational and artistic activities aiming at restoring and healing the Polish-Jewish memory for almost 20 years.

M. Kantor



Vice-Rector A. Mania awarding T. Pietrasiewicz