

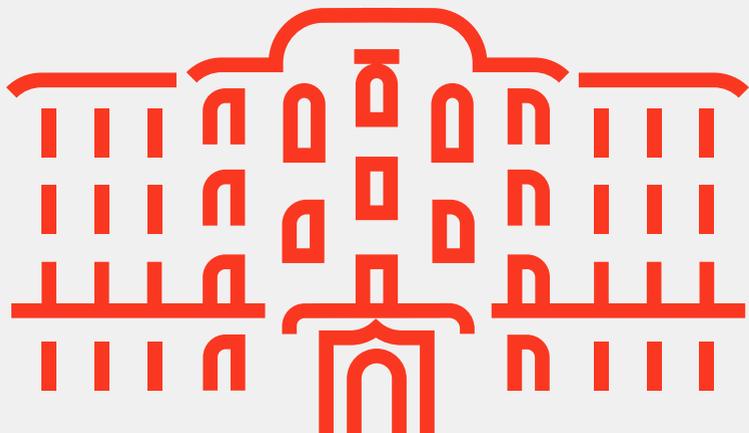


Report – 2019 Warsaw Ghetto Museum



Former
Warsaw Ghetto Museum

Ministry of
Culture
and National
Heritage of
the Republic
of Poland.



Albert Stankowski
Director of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum
Photo R. Szymański

Ladies and gentlemen,

The two years of the existence of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum was a time of hard work. The institution, which was built from scratch, has already marked its presence on the map of Polish culture and memory. We organise outdoor exhibitions; artistic events, scientific conferences and community meetings. We commemorate anniversaries. The Museum has a rich educational offer for students, teachers and guides engaged in historical tourism. You are welcome to take a stroll along the trail of Warsaw Ghetto memorial sites. The Museum cooperates with institutions both in Poland and abroad. We support veterans' organisations. Our main activity is the development of the Museum, which involves working on a permanent exhibition and preserving the monument – the Bersohn and Bauman Children's Hospital – which will house the Warsaw Ghetto Museum in the future. The year 2019, the first full calendar year of our work, brought challenges to us. We are sharing what we have experienced and asking for your support for our actions.

Albert Stankowski



Warsaw Ghetto
Museum



| Exhibitions

Permanent exhibition

In July 2019, the Permanent Exhibition Team was established, composed of historians from Poland, the USA and Israel.

Under the direction of the chief historian of the permanent exhibition, Prof. Daniel Blatman, and the Director of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum, Albert Stankowski, the team prepared documents containing the first concept of the whole exhibition and individual galleries, as well as presentations discussing particular issues. A time frame has been established; the narrative will focus on the events of the 20th century, taking into account the date of construction of the hospital (1878) and the charitable activities of the Bersohn and Bauman families. The team adopted three key elements to be conveyed to visitors, especially to the younger generation:

- a)** The ability to thoroughly experience and understand the diversity of Jewish life in Warsaw and the important role of Jews in the development and expansion of the city;
 - b)** The complexity and diversity of relations between the Poles and the Jews before World War II and during the German occupation, including violence and hostility arising alongside help and compassion;
 - c)** Building empathy and understanding of the unique fate of the Polish and Warsaw Jews during the period of extermination planned and carried out by the Germans.
- The team also adopted three key parameters which will constitute dominant trends in the historical narrative of the Museum:
- a)** The presentation of a broad perspective

on Jewish life in Poland during the German occupation, going beyond the framework of Jewish history in the Warsaw Ghetto. To this end, part of the exhibition will be devoted to the history of other ghettos.

- b)** The history of the Warsaw Ghetto told against the background of the history of occupied Warsaw. The exhibition will focus on the vulnerability of the city to German regulations, which led to the division of both its territory and the society. It will show a close connection between the ghetto life and the life of the whole city.

- c)** The permanent exhibition will strive to convey a universal message, according to which the tragedy of the Holocaust and the extermination of the Jews in Warsaw is the starting point for showing humanistic values such as tolerance, compassion for minorities, dialogue between religious, ethnic and national groups. The destructive consequences of anti-Semitism and racism should not only be remembered forever, but also serve as a warning for future generations. The preliminary draft scenario of the permanent exhibition has been submitted to an independent team of Polish and international historians for review. Opinions about it have also been expressed by the members of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum Council.

The Permanent Exhibition Team together with the Investment Department of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum is preparing documents for the tender for the concept of the permanent exhibition, the call for which is to be announced in 2020.



The Bersohn and Bauman Children's Hospital
Photo WGM/M. Nowak

Temporary exhibitions

A witness to history. The Bersohn and Bauman Children's Hospital

– the fence of the Bersohn and Bauman Hospital at 60 Sienna Street in Warsaw (23 July 2018 – 31 January 2019)

The first exhibition prepared by the Warsaw Ghetto Museum. The outdoor photographic exhibition on the fence of the former hospital building, which will become the seat of the Museum in the future, reminded of the history of this historic building. The exhibition, curated by Dr. Ewa Toniak,

an art historian and critic, included 20 boards. The concept was prepared by Dr. Hanna Węgrzynek, deputy director for research and exhibition. The exhibition, opened on 23 July 2018, has been included in the commemoration of the 76th anniversary of the mass deportation of Warsaw Jews to the Treblinka extermination camp. The exhibition attracted a lot of interest and was often shown by Warsaw guides during tours of the former ghetto.

Wyprostowani, nieugięci... (Standing up straight, unbent...) Natan Rapoport and the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes

– square at the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes in Warsaw (18 April – 30 October 2019)

The exhibition was devoted to the life and work of the author of the design of the monument – Natan Rapoport (Warsaw, 1911 – New York, 1987) and the monument itself. Its purpose was to show the history of constructing of the monument in the socio-political and cultural context

of 1940s and 1950s, and to introduce the figure of its creator Nathan Rapoport – an internationally renowned sculptor, the author of monuments commemorating the Holocaust around the world (e.g. in the USA, Europe, Israel) who in his youth was connected with Warsaw and its artistic community.

The exhibition was based on photographic materials presenting the artist and his works, designs of the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes, its unveiling ceremony, interviews and press reviews. Approximately 45,000 people saw the exhibition.



Standing up straight, unbent...
Photo MGW/
M. Nowak



Standing up straight, unbent...
Photo MGW/
M. Nowak



Standing up straight, unbent... Photo MGW/ M. Nowak



Standing up straight, unbent... Photo MGW/ M. Nowak

Postcards from our neighbourhood... The history of Sienna and Śliska Streets

– the fence of the Bersohn and Bauman Hospital building at 60 Sienna street in Warsaw (from 15 May 2019)

The aim of the exhibition is to show the history of both streets, from the early nineteenth century to 1960s using the photographs showing the no longer existing buildings and street scenes as well as posters informing about political, cultural and educational events. Iconographies and documents from the period of the Russian partition,

the Second Polish Republic, World War II, when both streets were part of the so-called small ghetto, and post-war times. The exhibition upholds the memory of the multiculturalism of Warsaw and the Jewish community that once lived here, and at the same time disseminates information about the Museum and its target seat. It is based on photographic materials from many national and foreign archives. It is estimated that by the end of 2019 the exhibition was seen by approximately 30,000 people.



Postcards from our neighbourhood, Photo MGW/ J. Turczy



Photo MGW/ M. Nowak

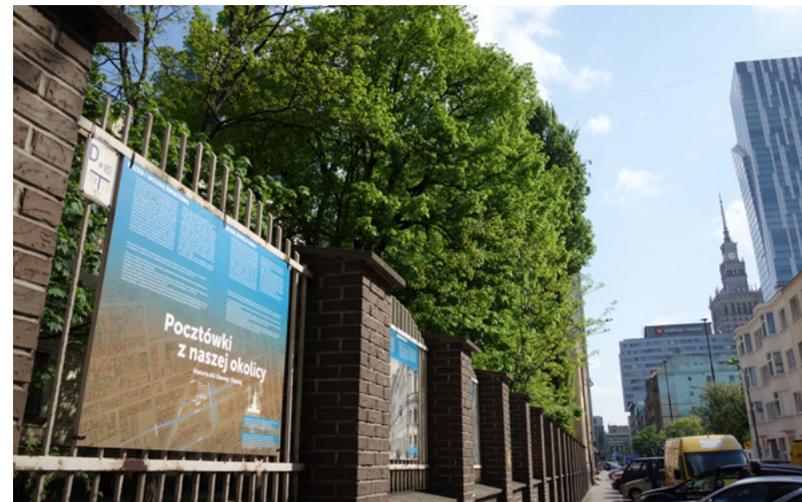


Photo MGW/ M. Nowak

Warsaw in Three Portraits

(8 September 2019–31 January 2020)

– Grzybowski Square

The exhibition has been organised in connection with the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. It presented three portraits of Warsaw: pre-war, war and reconstruction times, which show the changing image of the city,

accompanying its turbulent history. These changes are shown on the example of 12 streets that were located in the ghetto or its vicinity during the war. It is estimated that the exhibition was seen by approximately 80,000 people.



Warsaw in Three Portraits, Grzybowski Square in Warsaw. Photo WGM/M. Nowak

Collection

The collection of the Museum includes interesting items acquired as gifts and through purchase. These include Judaica, documents from the occupation period, photographs, postcards, objects of everyday use, as well as a cart for transporting corpses in the Warsaw

Ghetto purchased together with the Nissenbaum Family Foundation, wagons for removing debris from the former ghetto area, items related to hospital equipment, such as medical equipment, furniture from the era.



The cart for transporting corpses in the Warsaw Ghetto, purchased with the support of the Nissenbaum Family Foundation, Photo: WGM

The museum's collection has also been enriched with works of art, such as the quadriptych of the contemporary artist Krzysztof Augustin. Particularly valuable is the donated collection of 76 drawings by Henryk Hechtkopf. It consists of two series of works created in the years 1945–1955, depicting the ruins

of the Warsaw Ghetto and portraits of Holocaust survivors who lived Lower Silesia, Łódź and Warsaw after the war. The collection was donated by Rachela and Kristyna Postavsky from Israel. The works will be submitted to a microbiological expertise and then subjected to maintenance.



Kristyna Postavski,
Zichron Yaakov,
Israel 2019
Photo: WGM



The WGM employees during the unpacking of Henryk Hechtkopf's works, Warsaw, 2019
Photo: WGM



Directors of the WGM presenting Henryk Hechtkopf's work, Warsaw, 2019
Photo: WGM

In 2019, works were initiated on a reconstruction and thorough conservation of marble foundation plaques from the Bersohn and Bauman Children's Hospital. These works have been carried out at the Faculty

of Conservation and Restoration of Works of Art at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw as part of student coursework under the guidance of Prof. Wiesław Procyk and they will be completed in June 2020.



A marble foundation plaque from the Bersohn and Bauman Children's Hospital before conservation,
Photo: WGM



Faculty of Conservation and Restoration of Works of Art, Academy of Fine Arts, Warsaw
Photo: WGM

As part of the Collections Department, a database of photographs of the Warsaw Ghetto was created, which contains scans of over 9,600 photographs. Some of them have already been submitted to a topographic description. In order to create a database, queries were conducted in the collections of: the Warsaw Rising Museum, State Archive in Warsaw, Archive of New Files, National Museum in Warsaw, Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences,

Monuments Documentation Department of the Jewish Historical Institute, Archive of the Masovian Voivodship Monument Conservator, National Digital Archive and Bildarchiv Österreichische Nationalbibliothek ONB, Bildarchiv Foto Marburg, Bundesarchiv Deutschland in Koblenz. Moreover, for the purposes of the Permanent Exhibition, queries were conducted in museums and cultural centres located in the Masovian Voivodship.

Education

Museum lessons

In 2019, the employees of the Education Department conducted 98 hours of museum lessons, attended by 1,470 students from Warsaw and Mazovia. Free of charge classes were held in primary and secondary schools in Mińsk Mazowiecki, Maków Mazowiecki,

Przasnysz, and all over Warsaw. The classes took various forms: lessons, workshops and walks. Classes on Jewish tradition and culture and the history of the Warsaw Ghetto attracted the greatest interest.



Classes in Primary School No. 2 in Marki, November 2019, conducted by Dr. Wiesław Młynarczyk



"Judaism without secrets" classes in Primary School No. 107 in Warsaw, October 2019, conducted by Dr. Halina Postek

The Education Department has joined the celebrations organised in cooperation with the Jewish Social and Cultural Association to commemorate the Days of Remembrance of Holocaust Victims and the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. On 28 January 2019, we conducted a workshop entitled „What does it mean to be closed

in a ghetto?" for students of primary schools in Łódź; on 18 April, we met with the youth from H. Sienkiewicz Secondary School in Warsaw, and on 19 April, we conducted classes for the members of the children's choir of the city of Łódź. A total of approximately 120 participants took part in the workshops.



Dr. Wiesława Młynarczyk with the youth from H. Sienkiewicz Secondary School, 18 April 2019

Training courses

In 2019, the education department organised and conducted two training courses for teachers, educators and guides. The first one, entitled "Around the Warsaw Ghetto and other ghettos in occupied Poland", took place on 29–31 March 2019. The speakers included professors Sławomir Buryła

and Grzegorz Berent, doctors Piotr Trojański, August Grabski, Sebastian Piątkowski, Martyna Grądzka-Ryak, Maria Ciesielska and other experts on the topics of the Holocaust. A special experience was the meeting with a witness to the history – Wacław Kornblum, who survived the Warsaw ghetto.



Wacław Kornblum at the meeting with the participants of the training for teachers, 30 March 2019



Presentation by Dr. Sebastian Piątkowski about the Radom Ghetto, 30 March 2019. Photo WGM



Dr. Piotr Trojański talking about Holocaust education in Poland, 30 March 2019. Photo WGM

The „Warsaw Ghetto – Treblinka – Majdanek” training, which took place on 25–27 October, was possible thanks to establishing cooperation with museums in Treblinka and Majdanek.

The training devoted to the tragic fate of the Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto, most of whom were murdered in Treblinka and Majdanek, was attended by 21 teachers from all over Poland.



Classes for teachers organised by the WGM in the museum in Treblinka, 29 October 2019. Photo WGM/M. Nowak



Treblinka study tour, 29 October 2019. Photo WGM/M. Nowak

Education boards

In cooperation with the employees of the Department of Education of the Israeli Ministry of Education, a project addressed to Polish and Israeli students was carried out. The project resulted in the development and installation of 12 educational boards telling the history of the Warsaw Ghetto (in three languages:

Polish, Hebrew and English) in the courtyard of the former Bersohn and Bauman Children's Hospital. Due to the special situation of the hospital building, which awaits renovation, the boards can be viewed two days a week by appointment.



The education boards were placed in front of the hospital wall from the side of Sienna Street. Photo WGM/M. Nowak



Education board dedicated to Emanuel Ringelblum and the Oneg Shabbat group. Photo WGM

Varsavianist strolls

In the spring of 2019, the Education Department launched a series of regular Varsavianist strolls addressed to a wide audience, focusing on the history and functioning of the Warsaw Ghetto. The strolls followed in the footsteps of the fights undertaken by the fighters of the Jewish Combat Organisation and the Jewish Military Union, the history of Sienna and Śliska Streets was told

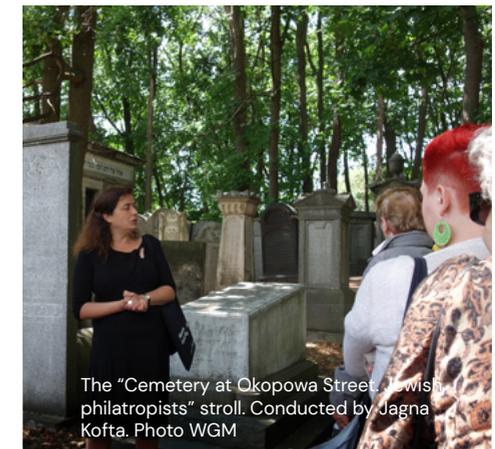
along with the history of the Bersohn and Bauman Children's Hospital. Places related to the activity of Janusz Korczak were shown. The trail also included the Jewish cemetery on Okopowa Street, where the graves of distinguished philanthropists are located - the places presented at the "Warsaw in Three Portraits" exhibition. Approximately 150 people took part in 6 strolls.



The youth from A. Fredro Secondary School and Jagna Kofta conducting a tour of the former ghetto, September 2019. Photo WGM



Employee of the Education Department, Jagna Kofta, during a stroll "Warsaw belongs to me and I belong to Warsaw." Photo WGM



The "Cemetery at Okopowa Street, Jewish philanthropists" stroll. Conducted by Jagna Kofta. Photo WGM

Series of film interviews

In cooperation with the World Association of Home Army Soldiers, the Education Department carried out the "Home Army against the tragedy of Polish Jews" project as part of the Multi-annual "Independent" Programme for the years 2017–2022. It is a series of 30 filmed interviews with the witnesses to the history. The interviews show the spectrum of attitudes towards the situation in which

the Jews found themselves during the war: from active help, through helpless compassion, indifference to the events taking place, to taking advantage of the situation in which the fellow Jewish citizens found themselves. Parts of the interviews are presented on the WGM website in three languages: Polish, English and Hebrew.



One of the interviewees, a participant of the Warsaw Uprising, Halina Rogozińska, June 2019. Photo WGM/ M. Nowak



Interview with Michał Bauer, participant of the September campaign, Home Army soldier, May 2019. Photo WGM/ M. Nowak

Internet guide/ Educational game "In the footsteps of the Warsaw Ghetto"

In cooperation with the Polish Underground State Foundation, an Internet Educational Guide/Game was created, thanks to which anyone who enters the website launched for this purpose will be able to learn more about the history of selected places connected with the Warsaw Ghetto. These include the following monuments: Monument to the Ghetto Heroes, Monument to the Evacuation of Warsaw Ghetto Fighters, Monument to Janusz Korczak, Emanuel Ringelblum, Szmul Zygelbojm, Umschlagplatz Monument; monuments commemorating: commanders of the Jewish Fighting Organisation, fights of the Jewish Military Union on Muranowski Square, "Żegota" Council to Aid Jews. The guide is intended for working with students as well as for tourists. The game is available at: <https://1943.pl/gru-edukacyjna/>.

Radio play

The audio guide materials, which were prepared last year, have been used for educational purposes. On their basis, a radio play was created, which describes the situation of 1/3 of the inhabitants of pre-war Warsaw and during World War II. In November 1940, approximately 400,000 Jews were closed behind the walls marking the borders of the ghetto. In July 1942, the so-called Grossaktion took place in the Treblinka II extermination camp, which entailed the murder of the majority, i.e. almost 300,000, of the Jews gathered in the Warsaw Ghetto. In the morning of 19 April 1943, when the Germans began the final liquidation of the ghetto and another wave of deportations, they were fired upon by fighters from the Jewish Combat Organisation (Polish: Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa, ŻOB) and the Jewish Military Union (Polish: Żydowski Związek Wojskowy, ŻZW). The script was written by Ewa Bieniek– Małkowska, the radio play was directed by Paweł Passini. The radio play is available at: www.1943.pl, in the "videoblog" tab. Paweł Passini.

Research activities

Scientific conference

In November 2019, the Museum organised an international scientific conference entitled "The Beginning of Nazi Occupation: Patterns of Continuity and Changes in Jewish and Polish Life, 1939–1941" in cooperation with the Polish Association for Jewish Studies (Polish: Polskie Towarzystwo Studiów Żydowskich, PTSŻ), the Jewish Historical Institute (Polish: Żydowski Instytut Historyczny, ŻIH), the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (Polish:

Europejska Sieć Pamięć i Solidarność, ENRS) and Touro College Berlin. The main aim of the conference was to make an in-depth, scientific analysis of the influence of the German occupation on the situation in Polish lands and the attitudes of the population in the first year of the German occupation. This event corresponded with the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the World War II in 2019. Approximately 200 people took part in the debate



Scientific conference, November 2019, ŻIH. Photo MGW/ M. Nowak



Albert Stankowski – director speaking to the assembled. Photo MGW/ J. Turczyk



Prof. Daniel Blatman – Chief Historian of WGM, moderating the lecture. Photo MGW/ J. Turczyk



Photo MGW/ J. Turczyk



Photo MGW/ J. Turczyk

Album dedicated to the Bersohn and Bauman Children’s Hospital

The publication was prepared by Dr. Hanna Węgrzynek – a deputy director of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum and Prof. Konrad Zieliński from the Scientific Department. It presents the history of the Bersohn and Bauman Children’s Hospital as an important testimony to the history

of Warsaw Jews and the Warsaw Ghetto. Museum employees wrote texts telling the history of the hospital and presented the collected iconographic materials. The album was released in two language versions – Polish and English, in edition of 300 copies each.



Anniversary publication of the album prepared by WGM, dedicated to the Bersohn and Bauman Children’s Hospital. Photo: WGM

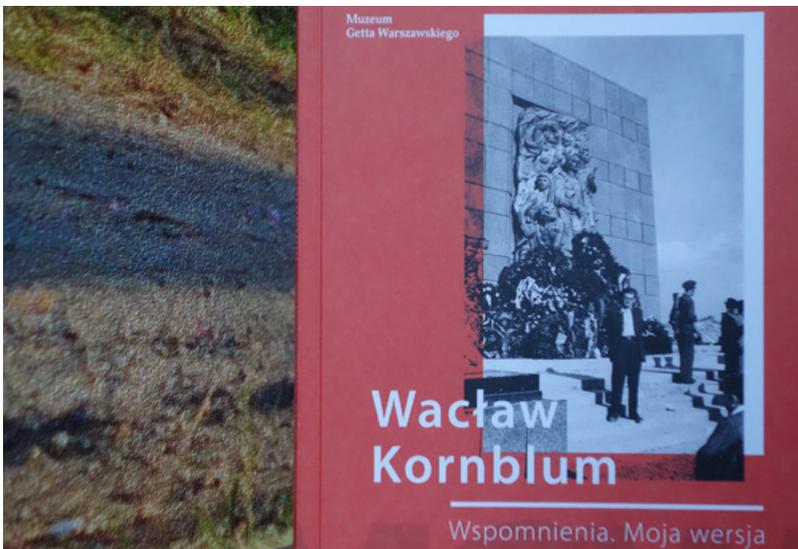
Memories of Izaak Waclaw Kornblum

The publication entitled: "Waclaw Kornblum. Memories. My version" opens a series of personal retrospections. The main character (born in 1926) grew up in Warsaw of the 1930s. At that time, he lived at 42 Śliska Street, near the Bersohn and Bauman Children's Hospital. He attended a nursery school operating under the auspices of the Bund, then a Bund school at 36 Krochmalna Street.

Just before the war broke out, the whole family moved to 35 Niska Street. Izaak Kornblum was thirteen at the time. His memories constitute an emotional story about the diversity of life of the Jews in the pre-war Warsaw, about the Polish-Jewish relations during the occupation, about hiding and survival, and, finally, about the post-war history of the Survivors. Today, Waclaw Kornblum is a member of the Council of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum.



Waclaw Kornblum, Warsaw 2019. Photo: J. Turczyk



WGM Publication "Waclaw Kornblum. Memories. My version". Photo: WGM

Interactive map of the ghetto

In 2018, works on an interactive map of the ghetto were initiated. The project was partially implemented under the Multi-annual "Independent" Programme for the years 2017-2022. The aim is to prepare a map showing the changes taking place in the city space during World War II before the creation of the ghetto, during its existence and after its liquidation.

The ongoing works focus on topographic changes and contain many new findings which differ from previous studies of this type. In the future, the map will be enriched with numerous photos, which are successively collected. The interactive map of the ghetto will be an important part of the permanent exhibition

MGW Initiatives

"This used to be a ghetto. We remember."

A programme has been developed to include local governments and communities in Mazovia in the commemoration of the Jewish population. The authorities of towns, municipalities and villages were offered to jointly organise anniversary events and contribute to commemoration in the form of plaques. There were 12 letters of intent sent out. Talks and documentation collection are in progress. The project will last several years. In order to commemorate ghettos, the Museum will offer the participating municipalities to erect a monument or to build a commemorative plaque. The author of the "Matzevas of Memory" project is a sculptor, Jerzy Kalina, who signed a cooperation agreement with the Warsaw Ghetto Museum in this regard.



"Matzevas of Memory", Jerzy Kalina

- Matzevas - Jerzy Kalina 2019
b.c.



An example of placing a commemorative plaque.
Author: J. Kalina.



An example of placing a monument.
Author: J. Kalina.

Protection of monuments

On the initiative of specialists from the Department of Collections of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum, the fence of the building at 5/7 Stawki Street from the side of Niska Street has been included in the Communal Register of Historic Monuments of the Capital City of Warsaw. The fence surrounds the current seat of the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Warsaw, where Public Universal Schools No. 153 and No. 175 were located before the war. During World War II, this area was located within the ghetto

boundaries, which is clearly visible in several photographs preserved. The bullet marks can still be seen in some parts of the fence. The preservation maintenance of the fence was possible thanks to the iconographic and cartographic analysis of the plans and photoplans from the years 1936–1948, and photographs (i.a. from the Stroop Report), which showed that part of the fence from the side of Niska Street as well as the foundation and posts are original and were built simultaneously with the building in the years 1936–1937.



Fragment of the fence from the side of Niska Street. Photo WGM.



Fence post with a visible shooting hole, probably from 1943 or 1944. May 2019, Photo - WGM.



People getting out of the building, 25 Niska Street. Source: Stroop Report



People preparing to jump from a burning building, 25, 27 Niska Street. Source: Stroop Report

Geophysical surveys

In July 2019, on the premises of the future seat of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum, geophysical research was carried out by experts from the Maurice Greenberg Centre for Judaic Studies at Hartford University in Connecticut in the United States. The researchers were looking for artefacts related to the history of the hospital. Analogous research was also carried out around the Anielewicz Mound



on Miła Street and, at the request of the Royal Łazienki Museum, on the premises of this institution. In cooperation with the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, non-invasive archaeological research was carried out within the area of the hospital complex. As a result, several anomalies, that may be related to the presence of historical objects, were detected.

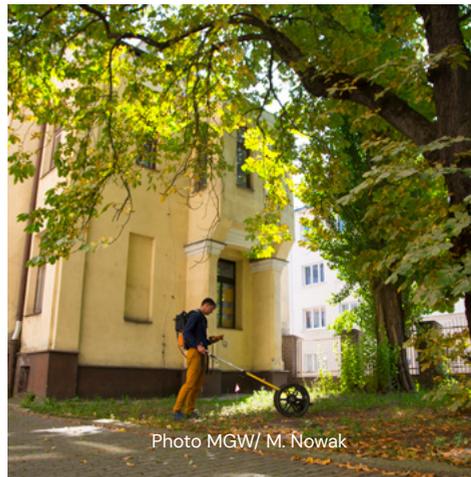
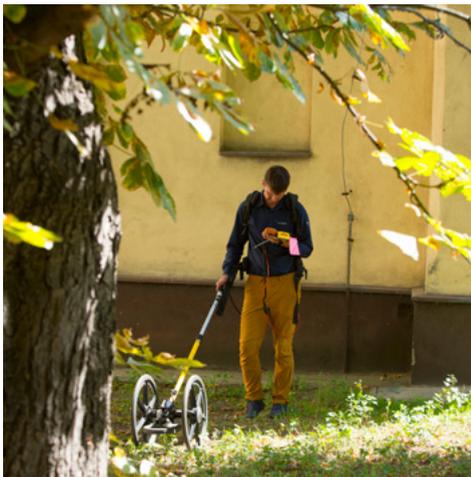


Photo MGW/ M. Nowak

International memento collection

In 2020, it is planned to launch the “International Memento Collection” campaign, the aim of which is to acquire objects connected with the Warsaw Ghetto. The regulations of this undertaking were introduced in September 2019. Moreover, in

cooperation with American film producer Charles B. Wessler, a film inviting the English-speaking audience to participate in the action was performed. Further promotional and organisational activities will be continued in 2020 and in the following years.



Director Albert Stankowski and film producer Charles B. Wessler, Warsaw 2019. Photo WGM

Events

Anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

In April 2019, the Warsaw Ghetto Museum team, together with the Jewish Social and Cultural Association in Poland, organised a series of events commemorating the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The main ceremonies with the participation of state and local selfgovernment authorities, veterans and Jewish circles, took place in front of the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes. The following events were organised as part of the ceremonies: workshops for

school youth; a Varsavianist stroll along the memorial sites of the Ghetto Uprising; screening of a film “Ulica graniczna” (“Border Street”) (directed by A. Ford, release year – 1948) with a commentary of a film expert; a concert commemorating Jewish composers – victims of the Holocaust “Silent Voices”; a monodrama „Yosl Rakover Talks to God” performed by Sławomir Holland. The exhibition “Wyprostowani, nieugięci...” (“Standing up straight, unbent...”) dedicated to the author of the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes was opened.



76th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, 19 April 2019. Photo MGW/ J. Turczyk



Director Hanna Węgrzynek showing the visitors around the area of the ghetto. Photo WGM/ J. Turczyk

Concert closing the year

In December 2019, the Warsaw Ghetto Museum, in cooperation with Warsaw Jewish organisations prepared cultural events on the occasion of Hanukkah. Promoting Polish artists, who seek inspiration in the works of Jewish artists, a concert of Lena Piękniewska entitled: "Coś przyjdzie - miłość lub wojna" ("Something will come: love or war") was organised and recorded. This musical

project was inspired by a poem by Abram Koplowicz, entitled "Marzenie" ("A Dream"), written by a thirteen-year-old in the Łódź Ghetto. Translated into over ten languages, it has become a symbol of children's work during the Holocaust. Abram Koplowicz died in Auschwitz but his legacy survived, thanks to his stepbrother. The programme also included literary works by Zuzanna Ginczanka, Abraham Cytryn and Janka Heschles



"Coś przyjdzie: miłość lub wojna" ("Something will come: love or war") Concert on the occasion of Hanukkah 2019. Photo WGM/ J. Turczyk



Alexander Ben Zvi, an ambassador of Israel to Poland - Photo WGM/J. Turczyk



David Berman, a scientific worker at the Warsaw Ghetto Museum. Photo WGM/J. Turczyk



Albert Stankowski,
Director of the
Warsaw Ghetto
Museum. Photo
WGM/
J. Turczyk



Lena Piękniewska.
Photo MGW/
J. Turczyk

Image

WGM visual identity competition

"The economical and well-thought-out graphic form is fully adequate to the importance of the topic," says Prof. Slawomir Kosmynka. *"The strength of this concept lies in the fact that it does not illustrate the horror with numbers or 'fancy symbols', but with the real names of people who experienced the life in the ghetto,"* says

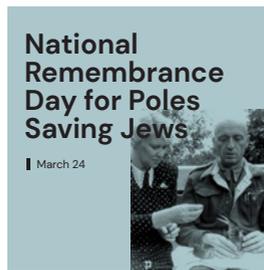
Prof. Philippe Boulakia. *"The visual identity of this institution should take its pro-social nature into account. Moreover, it must be understandable to people of many cultures and languages. The Lithuanian design met the criteria adopted by the jury to the greatest extent,"* says Margaret Naimska.

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Warsaw Ghetto
Museum

The concept of the visual identity of the Museum was selected in international competition which was conducted jointly with the Polish Association of Applied Graphic Designers. The authors of the winning concept are the designers from the Lithuanian studio DADADA. The competition was announced in September 2019. In the first stage, 216 applications were received, out of which the jury selected 6. There were 3

studios from Poland among the finalists: Futu, Redkroft, The Codeine. Moreover, the designers from the Czech-British studio Little Greta, the Lithuanian studio DADADA and the Italian designer Francesco Ciampa were qualified for the second stage. The finalists prepared works in the form of specific visual identity concepts to be evaluated by the competition jury. 11 designs were submitted.



The winning work was selected by the international jury composed of: Małgorzata Naimska – Deputy Director of the Culture Dpt. of the City of Warsaw; Barbara Schabowska – Director at Adam Mickiewicz Institute; Philippe Boulakia, lecturer at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem; Prof. Sławomir Kosmyńska from the Strzemiński Academy of Fine Arts in Łódź and Albert Stankowski – Director of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum. The concept of the Lithuanian DADADA Studio translates the mission of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum from the official language into the language of emotions, referring to individual memory. The authors are guided by the idea of commemorating specific people, as expressed in the slogan “No one can be forgotten”. In addition to the regular logotype, based on the name of the institution, an algorithm has been designed that enables almost limitless possibilities of creating logos based on

specific, historical names. Visual identity is much more than a logo, it is the context and language of forms, colours and typefaces, which form a well-thought-out key visual characteristic of the brand – in this case of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum. Identity colours are assigned with associations and meanings: red (terror), stone brown (history), light blue (hope). The DADADA studio designed a unique typeface inspired by Hebrew lettering, called “Memotype”. Its characters are used only in the logotype signet. The logotype signet always consists of initials, in its basic (institutional) form it is an abbreviation of the name of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum, and in the versions commemorating the victims and ghetto survivors – the initial letters of their first names and surnames. An integral part of the logotype is the full name of the Museum, and in variants commemorating people it also consists of their full names.

Website and social media profile

The www.1943.pl website, prepared in Polish and English versions, is a source of information about the institution and its employees. In addition to the Public Information Bulletin, information about current events and historical columns are published here. “The Taste of Life in the Ghetto” by Agnieszka Witkowska-Krych is a cycle of 25 columns that create a series concerning the food problems that affected Jews confined in the Warsaw Ghetto, as well as concerning the activities of provisional feeding points for the starving ghetto inhabitants, and kitchens providing food for children and infants. The series takes the form of a stroll around the closed district of Warsaw that existed during the occupation – the

author shows the reader certain streets and talks about the institutions and people connected with them. The Warsaw Ghetto Museum has published 23 episodes of the series so far. Agnieszka Witkowska-Krych is an anthropologist of culture, Hebraist and sociologist. She is a highly regarded researcher of the life and legacy of Janusz Korczak, a collaborator of the Forum for Dialogue Foundation and the Center for Yiddish Culture. In December 2019, she received the KLIO Award, in a contest for the best historical books, for her book “Mniej strachu. Fakty i mity o ostatniej drodze Janusza Korczaka i jego podopiecznych” [“Less fear. Facts and myths of the last road of Janusz Korczak and the children of his orphanage”].

 A screenshot of the website showing three article cards. Each card has a date at the top, a title, a short text snippet, and a "Czytaj więcej" button.

- 12.02.2020**
O Irenie Senderowej
15 lutego mija 110. rocznica urodzin Ireny Senderowej, Sprawiedliwej wśród Narodów Świata, działaczki społecznej i charytatywnej, członkini PPS i „Żegoty”, która wyprowadziła wiele żydowskich dzieci...
- 30.01.2020**
Smak gettowego życia 8. Restauracja „Adaś” – Leszno 19
Zapraszamy do lektury kolejnego felietonu Agnieszki Witkowskiej-Krych z cyklu zatytułowanego „Z życia w getcie”, w którym autorka przybliżyła m.in. kwestie żywienia mieszkańców getta, działalność doraźnie...
- 27.01.2020**
Wyzwolenie i pamięć
27 stycznia obchodzimy Międzynarodowy Dzień Pamięci o Ofiarach Holokaustu i 75. rocznicę wyzwolenia niemieckiego obozu koncentracyjnego i zagłady Auschwitz-Birkenau. Zapraszamy do lektury felietonu dra...

Unlike the columns by Agnieszka Witkowska-Krych, these by Paweł Wieczorek (PhD) were written on the basis of the anniversary calendar being part of the mission to spread the knowledge about the life, struggle and extermination of Polish Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto and other ghettos in Poland occupied by Germans. So far, Dr. Wieczorek has written ten columns for the Museum. His texts concerned: the beginning and the fall of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, "Operation Reinhardt", the "Kryisia" bunker, "Bloody Friday", the liberation of Auschwitz in the

context of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Irena Sendler, the participation of the Jews in the Warsaw Uprising and Polish aid to the Jews during the war in relation to the National Day of Remembrance of Poles Rescuing Jews under German occupation. The author specialises in recent history and was granted M. Bałaban Award for the best doctoral thesis by the Jewish Historical Institute (ŻIH). She has cooperated with USHMM, ŻIH and Social and Cultural Association of Jews in Poland (Polish: Towarzystwo Społeczno-Kulturalne Żydów w Polsce, TSKŻ).

Three screenshots of social media posts from the Warsaw Ghetto Museum. The first screenshot shows a historical black and white photograph of a street scene with a caption in Polish. The second screenshot shows a modern color photograph of the same street with a caption in Polish. The third screenshot shows a comment on the post.

In July 2019, the WGM started an online project concerning the wartime past of the capital and its contemporary image. Photographs of Warsaw from the time of the German occupation contrasted with photographs of the same places in their current state, are presented every Friday on the social media profile of the institution. Archival photographs are provided by the Department of Collections of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum, while

contemporary photographs are taken by a volunteer cooperating with the museum – Mr. Janusz Wąż. Each post of the project attracts a group of several thousand recipients. This contributes to the involvement of the inhabitants of Warsaw in learning about the history of the capital city, as well as helps to better promote the Warsaw Ghetto Museum which, as a young institution, is still creating its image.

Cooperation

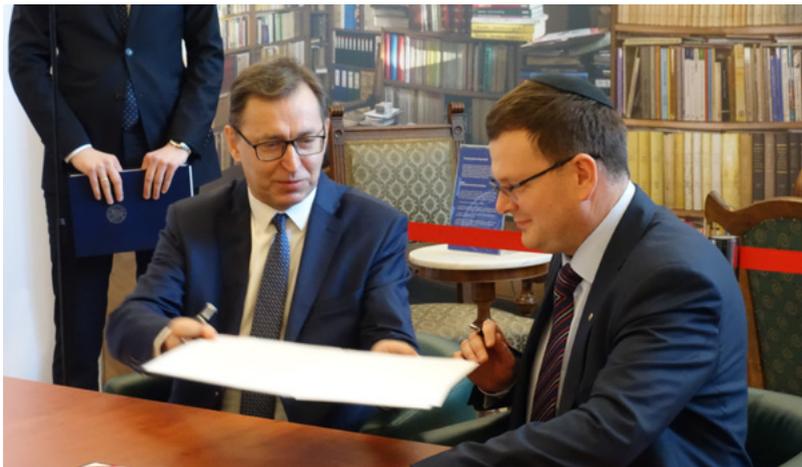
Scientific and educational cooperation

Cooperation agreements have been signed with the following institutions: Institute of National Remembrance, Treblinka Museum, a Nazi Germany extermination and labour camp (1941–1944), Majdanek State Museum, a Nazi Germany concentration and extermination camp (1941–1944), Warsaw Rising Museum, Jewish Social and Cultural Association in Poland, Nissenbaum Family Foundation, Polish Underground State Foundation, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The Education Department has established contacts with the Education Department of the Warsaw Rising Museum, "Przystanek Historia" ("Next Stop: History") Educational Centre of the Institute of National Remembrance and the Education Department of the Museum of Polish History. Areas of cooperation with these institutions have been established: joint museum

lessons (Warsaw Rising Museum, Polish History Museum), organisation of workshops for teachers ("Przystanek Historia"). The Education Department has also begun cooperation with the "Konwój 77" ("Convoy 77") organisation, which runs a project to commemorate the Jews deported by the final train from France to Auschwitz. As part of joint activities, museum educators would train the teachers participating in the project. Similar cooperation, concerning the training of teachers, was established with the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage which has been protecting Jewish cemeteries in Poland for many years. The Scientific and Research Department has established cooperation with museums and scientific and research institutions in Poland and abroad that conduct research on the history and culture of Jews and especially on the Holocaust.



Signing the cooperation agreement between the WGM and the Treblinka Museum; from left: Prof. Konrad Zieliński, WGM historian; Dr. Edward Kopówka, Director of the Treblinka Museum; Albert Stankowski, Director of the WGM, Prof. Daniel Blatman, chief historian of the WGM



Signing the cooperation agreement with the Institute of National Remembrance; Jarosław Szarek, President of the Institute of National Remembrance; Albert Stankowski, Director of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum; April 2019. Photo WGM



Signing the cooperation agreement between the WGM and the Jewish Social and Cultural Association in Poland; from the left: Director of the WGM – Albert Stankowski, President of TSKŻ – Artur Hofman



Signing the cooperation agreement between the WGM and the Majdanek State Museum; from the left: Dr. Tomasz Krantz, Director of the Museum, Albert Stankowski, Director of the WGM



Signing the cooperation agreement between the WGM and the Nissenbaum Family Foundation; from the left: Gideon Nissenbaum, Albert Stankowski



Signing the contract with the Nissenbaum Family Foundation; June 2019 Photo WGM

Cooperation at the international level

The Education Department of the Museum has begun cooperation with the Israeli Ministry of Education, the aim of which is to organise an educational programme of visits to Poland for Israeli youth. The Museum also cooperates with Israeli NGOs, including the Mashmout Center, commemorating the Jews murdered in Poland during the Holocaust. The result of this cooperation was an educational stroll and a lecture devoted to Stefania Wilczyńska, prepared for an Israeli group of female educators who visited Warsaw in August 2019. The Scientific Department plans to get involved with the publication of the prestigious and recognised journal

“The Journal for the Study of the Holocaust and Antisemitism”, published by Mordechai Anielewicz Memorial Holocaust Study and Research in Israel. The Museum cooperates closely with the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (thanks to the involvement of the Museum’s chief historian, Prof. Daniel Blatman). A promising cooperation was also established with Touro College Berlin (resulting in a joint conference in November 2019). The Exhibition Department began cooperation with the Holocaust Museum in Sered, Slovakia, which will result in the presentation of an exhibition concerning the Warsaw Ghetto in Sered in November 2020.

Council of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum

On the basis of the Act of 21 November 1996 on Museums, on 10 September 2019, the following 14 members of the Museum Council at the Warsaw Ghetto Museum were nominated: Colette Avital; Bishop Dr. Mieczysław Ciszło; Michael Schudrich; Adam Struzik; Małgorzata Naimska; Artur Hoffman; Dr. Jan Kutnik; Irene Kronhill Pletka; Anna Stupnicka- Bando; Gideon Nissenbaum; Barbara Blumenthal; Abraham Foxman; Marian Turski; Wacław Kornblum. In September, the first meeting of the Council of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum, combined with a press

conference, was held. In the closed part of the meeting, the following members were elected: Chairman of the Council – Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland, and the Vice-Chairman – Małgorzata Naimska, Deputy Director of the Culture Department of the City of Warsaw.

The people gathered also nominated the fifteenth member of the council, namely the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Jarosław Sellin.



Members of the WGM Council



First meeting of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum Council, 11.09.2019. Photo MGW/ J. Turczyk



Bersohn and Bauman Children's Hospital. Photo WGM

Statistics of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum

| Number of people visiting temporary exhibitions:

"Standing up straight, unbent..." – approximately 45,000 people saw the exhibition. Approximately 30,000 people saw the "Postcards from our area" exhibition. It is estimated that the "Warsaw in Three Portraits" exhibition was seen by approximately 80,000 people.

| Number of lessons conducted:

In 2019, the employees of the Education Department conducted 98 hours of museum lessons, attended by 1,470 students from Warsaw and Mazovia.

| Number of interviews completed

As part of the "Home Army against the tragedy of Polish Jews" project – the Education Department conducted and filmed a series of 30 interviews with witnesses to the history

| Collection

There are 79 items in the inventory of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum, consisting of 709 objects (including 433 photographs)

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Warsaw Ghetto Museum
muzeum@1943.pl
ul. Zielna 39
00-108 Warsaw
www.1943.pl

