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Academic Conference: Underground Press in the People's Republic of Poland, Olsztyn, 3-5 November 2010

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less of the owner and the assigned function, most castles were built in a similar style, therefore the identification of strongholds administered by the Order, the bishop or the chapter proves to be difficult today owing to their architectural similarity. The author also noted that the present condition of Teutonic strongholds largely reflects their fate before World War II.

The discussion was opened by Romuald Odoj, retired director of the Museum of the Battle of Grunwald in Stębark, who spoke of outdoor events marking the battle's anniversary in the previous years. He was followed by Professor Janusz Mallek, Doctor Honoris Causa of the UWM in Olsztyn, who thanked the organizers for staging this long-awaited conference. Dr. Bruno Platter also shared a few warm words of tribute for the event's organizers. Dr. Wiesław Łach (UWM in Olsztyn) talked about stereotypes and difficult moments in Polish-German relations. The discussion was closed by Jerzy Laskowski, the administrator of Purda municipality, who thanked all participants for attending the conference and commended the university for its efforts. Dr. Jan Gancewski gave a closing speech thanking the participants, lecturers, guests and all those who had contributed to the conference's success.

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**ACADEMIC CONFERENCE:
*UNDERGROUND PRESS IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF POLAND, OLSZTYN, 3–5 NOVEMBER 2010***

Political censorship reigned supreme in the People's Republic of Poland, and anti-communist activists initiated measures to break down the authorities' monopoly on information. An underground press system, literally referred to as the second circulation, was born, and independent publications were produced by illegal printing houses. Underground press was a crucial part of illegal printing. According to estimates, more than 5,500 press titles had escaped communist censorship in Poland between 1976 and 1989. This phenomenon continues to spur fascinating research.

A national academic conference entitled *Underground press in the People's Republic of Poland* was held on 3–5 November 2010 in the Library of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn. The event was organized by the Olsztyn Delegation of the Institute of National Remembrance and the University Library. The conference had an extensive program comprising 27 speeches delivered by historians, political scientists and sociologists representing key academic centers in the country: Warsaw, Łódź, Gdańsk, Toruń, Szczecin, Rzeszów, Bydgoszcz and Olsztyn.

On the first day of the conference, lectures were delivered by: Konrad Knoch, *Liberal underground press in 1979–1990*, Andrzej W. Kaczorowski, *Independent rural press 1977–1989*, Tomasz Truskawa, *Institutional press of the 1980s in the People's Republic of Poland*, Grzegorz Wołk, *Underground press in the Office for Preservation and Dissemination of Archival Records of the Institute of National Remembrance – a general overview*, Joanna Bachtin, *Collections of independent publications at the National Library*, Marta Marcinkiewicz, *Dissident press*, Grzegorz Majchrzak, *Not only press. The phenomenon of Radio Solidarity*, Dr. Krzysztof Osiński, *Radio Solidarity in Bydgoszcz*, Dr. Dominika Rafalska, *Underground press of the Independent Students' Union at the University of Warsaw in 1980–1981*. The first day of the conference ended with a debate addressing the delivered speeches. The first volume of the *Encyklopedia Solidarności* (Solidarity Encyclopedia), a compendium of knowledge on political opposition in the People's Republic of Poland in 1976–1989, was also promoted during the event.

The second day was divided into the morning session and the afternoon session. In the morning, lectures were delivered by eight speakers: Dr. hab. Mirosław Golon, *The Soviet Union in Polish underground press of the 1980s – selected issues*, Professor Ryszard Sudziński, *Polish community press in Chicago reports on the events in Poland in 1980–1990*, Bartosz Kaliski, *Ethos and fighting. A comparison of two periodicals: "Hutnicy '82" (Warsaw) and "Hutnik" (Cracow)*, Arkadiusz Kazański, *"Sensibility and Solidarity" – a publication of the underground Solidarity movement in Gdańsk's Lenin Shipyard in 1982–1988*, Karol Nawrocki, *Underground press in Elbląg in 1982–1988*, Paweł Szulc, *Underground press in Szczecin in 1989*, Katarzyna Kyc, *Independent press in Rzeszów in 1985–1990*, Jan Olszszek, *A overview of Agency News (1984–1990)*.

The afternoon session featured lectures by: Kamila Churska, *The elections of 1989 in Bydgoszcz's underground press*, Dr. Przemysław Wojtowicz, *"Free Speech. News service." A newsletter of Toruń Solidarity*, Dr. Sebastian Pilarski, *Underground press in Łódź and political transitions in Poland in 1989*, Józef Śreniowski, *Press distributors and underground publications of the 1980s (after 13 December 1981) in the Łódź city and area*, Dr. Sławomir Cenckiewicz, *Paweł Wikłasz – a sketch for a portrait of an underground publisher and informer*. This part of the conference also closed with a discussion and a promotion of two books: *Papierem w system. Prasa drugoobiegowa w PRL* (Breaking the system with paper. Underground press in the People's Republic of Poland), edited by Marta Marcinkiewicz and Sebastian Ligarski, and *Dziennikarze władzy, władza dziennikarzom. Aparat represji wobec środowiska dziennikarskiego 1945–1990* (Journalists for the authorities, authorities for the journalists. The political repression apparatus in the journalist community in 1945–1990), edited by Tadeusz Wolsza and Sebastian Ligarski.

The last day of the conference was dedicated to lectures by Olsztyn's historians: Dominik Krysiak, *Polish reality of the 1980s as portrayed by the*

“Rezonans” periodical in Olsztyn, Renata Gieszczyńska, “Larwa” – an underground publication of the Federation of Fighting Youths in Warmia and Mazury, Dr. Witold Gieszczyński, Report on the strike in the Olsztyn Graphics Plant in 1981 in the “Gazeta Olsztyńska” daily, Dr. Piotr Kardela, “Inicjatywy Warmińskie” – a publication of liberal oppositionists in Olsztyn, Paweł Warot, Secret Service operations aimed against local underground press on the example of the “Echo Mrągowa” daily. This part of the conference ended with a discussion which was attended by speakers and guests.

The conference was accompanied by two exhibitions, organized by the Olsztyn Delegation of the Institute of National Remembrance and the Special Collections Department of the Library at the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, entitled: *Independent press and publications in Warmia and Mazury in 1980–1989* and *A strike in the Olsztyn Graphics Plant in 1981. For the printer’s personal dignity, truth and veracity of speech.*