



Friends of Polish Art
Founded 1937 Non-Profit Organization

2025 Estelle Wachtel-Torres, MD Literary Competition

Contest Rules:

1. Open to all Michigan residents at least 18 years.
2. Entries must be short stories, poems, essays, or graphic novels. All entries must be original, never have been published or received an award in any other competition. All entries will be judged together regardless of form.
3. Submit only one original literary work. No Artificial Intelligence (AI) is permitted.
4. Entries must be in English, 1000 - 1500 words, typed, and double spaced.
5. **2025 Theme: Historical fiction based on one of the 2025 Patrons of Poland:**
 - Rev. Prof. Józef Tischner, Maria Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska, Władysław Stanisław Reymont, Wojciech Jerzy Has, Stefan Żeromski, Antoni Słonimski, Olga Boznańska, Kazimierz Sosnkowski, Franciszek Duszerko, first kings of Poland, heroes from Katyń, Kharkiv and Miednoje. (See page 2)
 - Submissions will be judged on creativity and basis in historical facts. For more info: <https://celadonbooks.com/what-is-historical-fiction/>
 - Examples of historical fiction titles: *"An account of living with Madam Curie."* *"Henryk Sienkiewicz and how I inspired one of his literary works."* *"I was with Copernicus when he wrote his research on the heliocentric model."*
6. Place your name ONLY on the entry form—not on the literary submission.
7. Send entries via both email and traditional mail:
 - Mail one copy of your literary work and the entry form to Pamela Saunders 4230 N. Fulton Place, Royal Oak, Michigan, 48073.
 - Email to info@friendsofpolishart.org with subject line: Polish Literary Competition Submission
8. **Contest runs May 1- August 15, 2025. Deadline for entries is August 15, 2025.**
Winners will be notified by mail by September 15, 2025, and announced at the October FPA General Membership Meeting.
9. FPA Literary Committee has full discretion to award the following prizes in the Estelle Wachtel-Torres, MD Literary Competition.
 - Grand Winner – \$500
 - 2nd Place – \$300
 - 3rd Place – \$200
 - Honorable Mention
10. Submission of works constitutes a copyright license to the Friends of Polish Art (FPA) to publish and/or reprint the winning works should FPA choose to do so without royalties or other compensation. By submitting the work, the entrants represent that they have the right to grant this license.
11. Excerpts or the entire work of winning projects may be published in the Friends of Polish Art newsletter and/or on the [Friends of Polish Art website](https://www.friendsofpolishart.org/).

Questions: Contact Pamela Saunders via email at pksaunders1@msn.com with subject line: Polish Literary Competition.

The Republic of Poland 2025 Patrons of Poland:

- Rev. Prof. Józef Tischner,
- Maria Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska,
- Władysław Stanisław Reymont
- Wojciech Jerzy Has
- Stefan Żeromski
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- Kazimierz Sosnkowski
- Franciszek Duszeńko
- First Kings of Poland
- Heroes from Katyń, Kharkiv and Miednoje

Rev. Prof. Józef Tischner - outstanding achievements of one of the most important Polish philosophers, clergy and intellectuals, in connection with the 25th anniversary of his death.

Maria Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska - special significance of her poetic achievements. July 9, 2025, is the 80th anniversary of the death of this outstanding Polish poet. Sister of the great Kossaks.

Władysław Stanisław Reymont - significance of the writer's work for the national and world heritage, marking the 100th anniversary of the death of this outstanding creator, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1924.

Wojciech Jerzy Has - The 100th anniversary of the birth of this outstanding director and screenwriter, creator of films: "Farewells", "The Saragossa Manuscript", "The Doll" and "Sanatorium under the Sign of the Hourglass".

Stefan Żeromski - Marking the 100th anniversary of the death of the author of "Ashes". He was not only an outstanding writer, but also a patriot who devoted his literary work and social activity to the cause of Poland's independence. Żeromski believed in the mission of the writer as a co-creator of the fate of the nation.

Antoni Słonimski - outstanding poet, writer, translator and publicist. "As president of the Association of Polish Writers, he used his position to fight for the material rights of creators and defended freedom of speech", and his "Letter 34" from 1964 was the first joint protest of intellectuals in post-war Poland against communist repression in the Polish People's Republic. 2025 marks the 130th anniversary of his birth.

Olga Boznańska. The paintings of this excellent painter are among the most important modernist works in Poland and are exhibited in renowned museums. Boznańska achieved international success, becoming one of the most recognizable Polish artists. 2025 marks the 85th anniversary of her death.

General Kazimierz Sosnkowski - outstanding organizer of the Polish Army and steadfast advocate of the Polish cause on the international stage. A close associate of Piłsudski and a critic of the Allies' concessions to the USSR, Sosnkowski went down in history as a defender of the Polish cause on the international stage. 2025 marks the 140th anniversary of his birth.

Franciszek Duszeńko - outstanding Polish sculptor. Duszeńko, a soldier of the Home Army and a prisoner of concentration camps, created monumental monuments after the war, including in Treblinka and Westerplatte, and contributed to the reconstruction of Gdańsk. 2025 marks the 100th anniversary of his birth.

First two kings of Poland - Bolesław the Brave and Mieszko II Lambert - recalls the beginnings of Polish statehood. These coronations symbolize the birth of a proud tradition of statehood.

Year of Polish Heroes from Katyn, Kharkiv, Mednoye, Bykivnia and other places – victims of Soviet genocide. The justification reads that, "...the crime of genocide, which was committed in the spring of 1940, is an unprecedented murder in history of representatives of the Polish intelligentsia and state elites." These heroes, a symbol of free Poland, remind us of the nation's steadfastness in the fight for truth and sovereignty.