



HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

76th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Nazi German Concentration Camp in Auschwitz-Birkenau - the Pandemic Meeting.

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Introduction

Ladies and Gentlemen, this year we celebrated the 76th Anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi German Concentration Camp in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Again the meeting was co-organized by the Jagiellonian University, Cracow Medical Society (*Pol. Towarzystwo Lekarskie Krakowskie, TLK*) and the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum. Unfortunately, owing to the ongoing SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, which thus far has claimed almost 50,000 lives in Poland alone, it was done online.

I would like to remind the readers again that in the years 1961-1991 TLK published materials known colloquially as "Auschwitz Journals" or more precisely addition to the Medical Review–Auschwitz / Przegląd Lekarski–Oświęcim [1] (the proper name “Zeszyty Oświęcimskie” is reserved for the publication of Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum). More information may be found on the following dedicated site: <https://www.mp.pl/auschwitz/>

Please see two films from this year's meeting. My introduction is the first one, followed by an interesting presentation by father Bielas (Figures 1 and 2).



Figure 1. Screenshot from the film with introduction by Prof. Gościński, the head of Cracow Medical Society. Direct link to the film: <https://youtu.be/aq3u9S9YaUk>



Figure 2. Screenshot from the online lecture of father Dr Lucjan Bielas about the book of remembrance on Polish foresters. Direct link to the film: <https://youtu.be/bFibcqX9K80>



This year's meeting can be very well expressed by the emotional poem "Nigdy" (*Eng. Never*), written by the Polish poet Teresa Gabrysiewicz-Krzysztofikowa whose father perished in Auschwitz extermination camp:

*"Parent-teacher conferences,
you never came to,
so many A's that have wilted.*

*You have never seen my first high-heels,
I remember, this was a prom.*

*A bit jealous, you did not look out through the
window on my first date.
Was he freckled, funny, hand in his pocket,
with movie tickets?*

*Now, you also don't read my poems,
I wrote so many for you.
Never will I buy you newspapers,
pass cigarettes.*

*I cannot just place pansies on your grave.
Auschwitz, daddy, the place erased from my
trails.
I could trample on your ashes, there."*

Conclusion

Our main objective is remembrance, warning for future generations and reconciliation.

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English subtitles: WJOMI Editorial Office

References

[1] Medical Review – Auschwitz (Przegląd Lekarski – Oświęcim). The project has been developed with the aim of sharing all 31 volumes of Medical Review – Auschwitz with the international community by making the articles available free of charge online. TLK & Medycyna Praktyczna. Access valid on 20 March 2021: <https://www.mp.pl/auschwitz/>

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