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## **Register of the Poland. Konsulat Generalny (New York, N.Y.) Records**

Prepared by Zbigniew L. Stanczyk

Hoover Institution Archives

Stanford University

Stanford, California 94305-6010

Phone: (650) 723-3563

Fax: (650) 725-3445

Email: [hooverarchives@stanford.edu](mailto:hooverarchives@stanford.edu)

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Stanford University  
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### Contact Information

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Email: [hooverarchives@stanford.edu](mailto:hooverarchives@stanford.edu)

Prepared by:

Zbigniew L. Stanczyk

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Poland. Konsulat Generalny (New York, N.Y.) records,

**Date (inclusive):** 1940-1948

**Collection number:** 76004

**Creator:** Poland. Konsulat Generalny (New York, N.Y.)

**Collection Size:** 7 manuscript boxes (2.8 linear feet)

**Repository:** Hoover Institution Archives

Stanford, California 94305-6010

**Abstract:** Correspondence, telegrams, memoranda, reports, agreements, minutes, histories, financial records, lists, press summaries, photographs, and printed matter, relating to the German and Soviet occupation of Poland during World War II, activities of the Polish Government-in-Exile (London), and displaced Polish citizens after World War II.

**Physical Location:** Hoover Institution Archives

**Language:** Polish.

### Access

Collection is open for research.

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### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Poland. Konsulat Generalny (New York, N.Y.) records, [Box no.], Hoover Institution Archives.

### Acquisition Information

Materials were acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 1976.

### Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University's online catalog at <http://searchworks.stanford.edu/>. Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in the online catalog is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.

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**Historical Note**

Polish Consulate General in New York City.

**Scope and Content Note**

The records of the Polish Consulate General in New York (Konsulat Generalny Rzeczypospolitej w Nowym Jorku) were obtained by the Hoover Institution in 1976 from the family of Consul General Sylwin Strakacz, three years after his death. The New York Consulate was the first Polish diplomatic post on American soil after Poland regained its independence. It opened on August 1, 1918, much before the Polish Embassy in Washington and shortly before the San Francisco Consulate did (the latter remained open only for a short time, to facilitate the transfer of Poles remaining in Siberia). The New York office played a significant role, but these records deal mostly with civic and administrative affairs, not political ones.

What could be of particular interest to researchers are the efforts of the Polish diplomats in organizing relief among Polish Americans for their compatriots released from the Siberian camps in 1941, as well as the assistance to Polish prisoners of war in Germany throughout the war. From the same period, one will also find interesting documents on Polish-Soviet relations and on Polish-Jewish cooperation in the United States.

The collection is a good illustration of confusion among Polish diplomats in 1944-1945, caused by uncertainty about the future of their homeland and, subsequently, by the loss of recognition internationally (see the correspondence of Sylwin Strakacz with Tadeusz Gwiazdowski and Jan Ciechanowski, the Polish ambassador). One of the first posts of Poland's diplomatic network, the New York Consulate was also one of the first to fall, in 1945, to the communist takeover.

Some materials in the collection date from beyond the consulate's closing year. Since they related to the subject of Polish post-war politics, they were added to the consular records by Mr. Strakacz, who stayed in the United States after 1945 and remained active in émigré circles.

It is difficult to determine if the New York Consulate used the uniform system of classification recommended by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Very likely, the order in which the documents came to the Hoover Institution was established by Mr. Strakacz himself.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the repository's online public access catalog.

**Subjects**

Poles--United States.

World War, 1939-1945.

World War, 1939-1945--Poland.

New York (State)

New York (N.Y.)

Poland.

Poland--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.

Poland--History--Occupation, 1939-1945.

Soviet Union.

Russia (Federation)

Soviet Union--Foreign relations--Poland.

Poland--Foreign relations--United States.

United States--Foreign relations--Poland.

United States--Foreign relations.

Poles--Soviet Union.

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box 1

**Office Files, 1941-1945.****Scope and Content Note**

Budget records, receipts, and reports related to personnel affairs, arranged alphabetically by subject

- box 1-2                    **Correspondence, 1941-1949.**  
                                 **Scope and Content Note**  
                                 Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent. Sylwin Strakacz's correspondence is included here as well under his name, even though he was the consul general for some of the years listed
- box 2-3                    **Reports, 1943-1946.**  
                                 **Scope and Content Note**  
                                 Reports issued by Polish government agencies on Poland's economy and foreign policy, arranged alphabetically by subject
- box 3-5                    **Subject File, 1941-1948.**  
                                 **Scope and Content Note**  
                                 Fliers, clippings, brochures, newsletters, programs, reports, resolutions, maps, arranged alphabetically by subject
- box 6                      **Bulletins, 1946-1964.**  
                                 **Scope and Content Note**  
                                 Bulletins issued by Polish Government-in-exil émigrés in London, Polish émigrés in the United States, and the British and American embassies in Warsaw, arranged alphabetically by alphabetically by title. These bulletins did not originate with the consulate, but were added later to the records by Sylwin Strakacz
- box 7                      **Printed Matter, 1942-1949.**  
                                 **Scope and Content Note**  
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**Piskorski, Florian.**

**Scope and Content Note**

Includes correspondence with Alex Habermann re transfer of funds from Swiss account, 1942

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**Scope and Content Note**

Contains signatures of prominent Poles visiting estate of Ignacy Paderewski

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**Scope and Content Note**

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Includes comments on need to involve Polish Americans in war relief

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