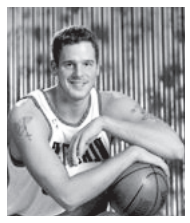
Museum's Historic Reflections Project Part 2



October 10, 1979 - Joel Przybilla (Born)

Joel Przybilla was a professional basketball player in the National Basketball Association. He went to the University of Minnesota and played for several NBA teams. He recently played for the Portland Trail Blazers.

October 11, 1903 - Kazimierz Kordylewski (Born)

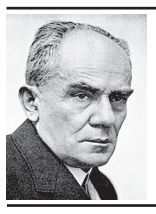
Kazimierz Kordylewski was an astronomer born in Poznan, Poland in 1903. In 1956, Kordylewski discovered clouds of dust, believed to be particles left over from our moon. These clouds are now named after him.

October 12, 1840 - Helena Modjeska (Born)

Helena Modjeska was a Polish actress of international fame who immigrated to the United States in 1876. She became a star of American stages for many years with her portrayals of Shakespearian characters. Modjeska was the mother of Ralph Modjeski, the builder of the Benjamin Franklin and Tacony Palmyra Bridges in Philadelphia and several others across America.

October 13, 1926 - "Killer" Kowalski (Born)

Professional wrestler Wladek Kowalski is known as "Killer" Kowalski to his long-time wrestling fans. He wrestled in over 6,000 matches from 1947 to 1977, winning great popularity in TV matches during the 1960's and 70's against foe, Bruno Sammartino.



October 14, 1864 - Stefan Zeromski (Born)

Stefan Zeromski was a Polish novelist who was given an apartment in the Royal Castle of Warsaw in recognition of his artistic abilities. He wrote over fifteen major works.

October 15, 1817 - Thaddeus Kosciuszko (Died)

After the struggle for America's Independence, General Thaddeus Kosciuszko returned to his homeland of Poland. He swore an oath in the Krakow market place to fight for Poland's liberty and took command of the Polish uprising in 1794, urging all men to take up arms to defend Poland.

October 16, 1726 - Daniel Chodowiecki (Born)

Daniel Niklaus Chodowiecki was a Polish-German painter and printmaker with Huguenot ancestry, who is most famous as an etcher. He spent most of his life in Berlin, and became the director of the Berlin Academy of Art.

October 17, 1849 - Fryderyk Chopin (Died)

Fryderyk Chopin, Polish composer and pianist, was born in Zelazowa Wola, Poland in 1810. At age 7 Chopin wrote his first composition, the Polonaise in G minor. At age 8 he presented his first public concert. Fryderyk Chopin's music continues to be played throughout the world.

October 18, 1922 - Richard Stankiewicz (Born)

Richard Stankiewicz was born in Philadelphia, grew up in Detroit, and had a presence in several prestigious art galleries in New York City during his career. He became internationally known in the 1960's for his trend setting work by welding pieces of scrap metal. He died in 1983 at his home in Worthington, Massachusetts.

October 19, 1984 - Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko (Died)

Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko, the Solidarity Priest, was murdered by Communist internal security agents. His murder only solidified the resolve of the Polish people to gain their freedom. Pope John Paul II visited the grave of Fr. Popieluszko during one of his visits.

October 20, 1948 - Honorable Robert Borski (Born)

Honorable Robert Borski, former United States Congressman, represented the people of Northeast Philadelphia for many years. We thank him for his many years of service.

October 21, 1969 - Waclaw Sierpinski (Died)

Waclaw Franciszek Sierpinski was a Polish mathematician known for outstanding contributions to set theory (research on the axiom of choice and the continuum hypothesis), number theory, theory of functions and topology. He published over 700 papers and 50 books. Three well-known fractals are named after him (the Sierpinski triangle, the Sierpinski carpet and the Sierpinski curve), as are Sierpinski numbers and the associated Sierpinski problem.

Museum's Historic Reflections Project Part 3

October 22, 1978 - Pope John Paul II (Installed)

Pope John Paul II, was elected to be the shepherd of the Universal Catholic Church in October 1978 and served as pontiff until his death on April 2, 2005. During his 27 years as Holy Father, he was recognized as a true son of Poland and an international leader of faith and justice. On May 1, 2011, Pope John Paul II was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI as Blessed John Paul II, and on April 27, 2014, was canonized a Saint by Pope Francis as Saint John Paul II.

October 23, 1885 - Jan Czochralski (Born)

Jan Czochralski was a Polish chemist known for the Czochralski process of growing single crystals used in the production of semiconductor wafers. He also helped to develop a hand grenade for Poland's Home Army during World War II.

October 24, 1916 - Edward Piszek (Born)

Edward Piszek was a Polish American Industrialist and Philanthropist. He was the founder of Mrs. Paul's Kitchens, the frozen-food business that became a national giant. Mr. Piszek was an outstanding supporter of Poland and the Polish American community. Among his many accomplishments, Edward Piszek helped eradicate tuberculosis in Poland and was the main supporter of the Kosciuszko House in Historic Philadelphia. Died 2004.

October 25, 1867 - Jozef Dowbor-Musnicki (Born)

Józef Dowbor-Musnicki was a Polish military officer and commander, serving with the Polish army. He was also the military commander of the Greater Poland Uprising.

October 26, 1910 - John Cardinal Krol (Born)

John Cardinal Krol was a Polish American Cardinal and the Archbishop of Philadelphia from 1961 to 1988. John Cardinal Krol participated in the Second Vatican Council, served as the President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and was advisor to Pope John Paul II. Died 1996.

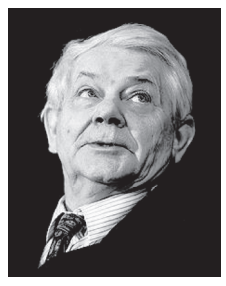
October 27, 1991 - Free Elections Held in Poland (Event)

We mark the date of the first free elections for the Polish Parliament, since World War II, on this day in 1991.

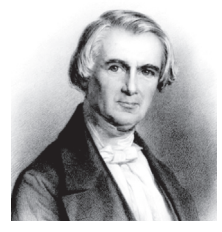
October 28, 1824 - Fr. Leopold Moczygemba (Born)

Fr. Leopold Moczygemba was a patriarch of America's Polonia. Fr. Moczygemba organized the first Polish settlement in the United States at Panna Maria, Texas in 1854. He was one of the founders and also served as president of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, which was founded in Chicago in 1873. He also established the first Polish College in America at Orchard Lake, Michigan.

October 29, 1924 - Zbigniew Herbert (Born)



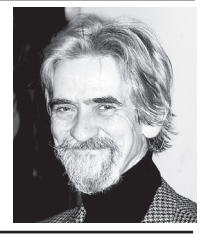
Zbigniew Herbert was an influential Polish poet, essayist and moralist. He was a member of the Polish resistance movement during World War II. The publication of his Selected Poems in the United States and England made Zbigniew Herbert one of the most popular contemporary poets in the English-speaking world. Died 1998.



October 30, 1790 - Karol Lipinski (Born)

Karol Lipinski was a Polish virtuoso violinist and composer. His Stradivarius violin became known as the Lipinski Stradivarius. His compositions included four violin concertos, as well as polonaises, rondos and variations. The Karol Lipinski University of Music in Wroclaw, Poland, bears his name.

October 31, 1950 - Jozef Stolorz (Born)



Józef Stolorz is a fine art painter born in Katowice, Silesia, Poland. He has displayed paintings at over 100 exhibitions worldwide, including over 60 individual exhibitions and since 2002 has been listed in an official "Who's Who in Poland".

November 1, 1918 - Harcerze (Founding)

The first American unit of the Polish Boy Scouts, known as Harcerze, was started in Buffalo, New York, in 1918. They remain a well known scouting movement which has spread across the United States of America.