

BŁAŻOWA



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BLAZOWA'S Past and Present *News and Historical Notes*

Compiled by the Municipal and Communal Library in Blazowa



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Anna Heller

Dear Readers

The world around us is changing incredibly quickly. Every day brings us new challenges... and new opportunities. Public libraries around the world are becoming beating hearts of their local communities. Our library

strives to be such a place for the residents of Blazowa and its surrounding areas, and with this publication we are reaching even further out, to friends living abroad,

descendants of those who once called Blazowa home... and anyone interested in the history of our little region. I am very happy that members of my library team share this dream of mine, of making the library a place where everyone is welcome, where we can journey together not only to discover the beauty of the written word but also the importance of preserving the past to shape a better future. I wish Magda and Jakub, and all future contributors and readers of "Blazowa's Past and Present" GOOD LUCK. Enjoy the journey!

Director of Blazowa Library
Anna Heller

Informal Historical Group „To Save from Obscurity”

The Blazowa Library publishes the local periodical „Kurier Błażowski” for the municipality of Blazowa and continues the mission and traditions of this magazine. We would like to inform you that the Informal Historical Group „To Save from Obscurity” has been established in association with the library.

The primary goal of the magazine's founders was to preserve the people and facts related to the Blazowa region from fading into obscurity. The first issue of „Kurier” stated: „All products of material and spiritual culture from the hardworking people of the Blazowa region are disappearing at an alarming rate.



Colorful folk traditions are vanishing, and norms of coexistence and customs are changing. Traces of old folk culture and folklore from the region are fading away. Old documents are being destroyed, and local stories and legends are being forgotten.”

Many interesting historical articles can be found in older issues of „Kurier Błażowski.” Current sections, such as „Save from Obscurity,” „Graves of Our Ancestors,” and „History,” provide valuable information about the past.

The Blazowa Library houses a wealth of archival materials related to our region. We have also developed a website dedicated to the Blazowa

cemetery, making it easier for people to locate older graves. Our collection of historical photographs currently consists of around 6,000 images and continues to grow. This expansion is one of the reasons we established a group for history enthusiasts. Our goal is to collect, preserve, and share the achievements of our ancestors, particularly with the younger generation. Through this effort, we aim to enrich their understanding of our region's history and the people who shaped it.

We invite all interested parties to reach out to us for more information.

Jakub Heller



Jakub Heller



Magdalena Kowalska-Cheffey

News from Blazowa

December is a month centered around Christmas, holiday gatherings, children's

nativity plays, and carol concerts. In our community, St. Nicholas visited kindergartens and schools, bringing small gifts for the children. Various

groups, associations, and organizations came together to share a festive meal, reflect on the past year, and extend their best wishes for 2025.

In a joyous ceremony, eight couples celebrated their golden wedding anniversary: Janina and Józef Grabski, Genowefa and Piotr Jamróz, Maria and Antoni Łoza, Maria and Stanisław Najda, Halina and Roman Odój, Krystyna and Gabriel Pleśniak, Danuta and Zygmunt Sowa, and Teresa and



Bolesław Wolan. Their long-lasting relationships are a testament to the enduring power of love and marital devotion.

December 8th marked the 80th anniversary of the martyrdom of Father Michał Pilipiec, vicar of the parish in Blazowa and a heroic chaplain of the Home Army, who was murdered by the communist Security Office.

The end of the year often inspires reflection, allowing us to take stock and make future plans.

Last year, our municipality undertook and completed several projects. We rebuilt additional sections of the communal roads, expanded the

nursery in Blazowa, and began constructing a sports hall at the Primary School in Nowy Borek. The remaking of the Green Velo bike paths also continued, inviting cycling enthusiasts to explore our beautiful region actively. Additionally, the Volunteer Fire Department

received much-needed new equipment. A source of pride for Blazowa is the LKS Błażowianka football club, which saw the completion of a multi-purpose building at the stadium, benefiting both the footballers and the entire community.

Magdalena Kowalska-Cheffey



The Volunteer Fire Department received new equipment.



Under construction - sports hall at the Primary School in Nowy Borek.



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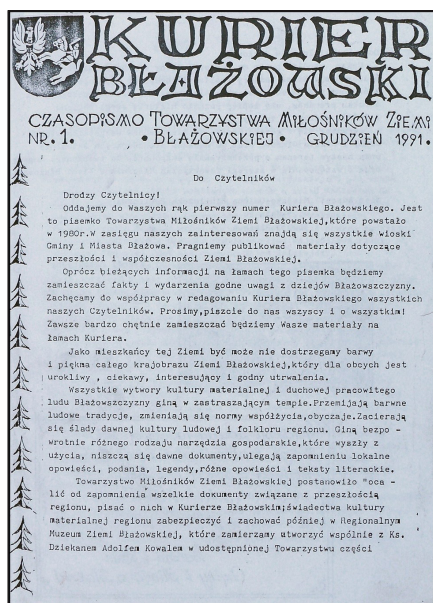


In a joyous ceremony, eight couples celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

„Kurier Błażowski” – a local periodical

„Kurier Błażowski” is a local periodical published by the municipality of Blazowa since 1991. The idea to launch this local magazine originated from the Society of Friends of the Blazowa Land, which was established in 1980, in particular by Tadeusz Woźniak and Stanisław Koczela.

The magazine's first editors aimed



The first issue of the magazine.

to preserve and highlight the people, events, and material culture associated with the region to prevent them from fading into obscurity.

The first issue of „Kurier Błażowski” was published in December 1991. The magazine consisted of six pages that were typed and photocopied. The editorial office was in the Municipal and Communal Public Library in Blazowa. The second issue featured the local government of the commune and city of Blazowa as a co-publisher. Issues two through five did not differ much visually. However, starting with issue six, the newspaper was typeset

on a computer. At that time, while advanced computer programs were not as available as today, this transition from a typewriter to a computer represented a significant technological leap.

The first advertisement appeared in issue seven, promoting Stanisław Bednarz's shop. From the beginning, the magazine documented the history of World War II, including profiles of the Home Army (Armia Krajowa) soldiers. For example, „Kurier Błażowski” No. 8 featured Lieutenant Aleksander Gruba, pseudonym „Sęp,” on page 29.



The latest issue of the magazine.

The late Dr. Eng. Michał Kryczko specialized in writing about the history of the Home Army.

We have also written extensively about the Jewish community of Blazowa, our former neighbours. We have acquired a wealth of new materials in the library, which we are gradually developing and making available, including through „Kurier Błażowski.” Thanks to these materials, we have organized many meetings for children and youth from our community.



Elżbieta Pęcka

Furthermore, we have started collaborating with the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage, which owns the Jewish cemetery in Blazowa. We are actively working to tidy it up gradually.

The series „Everyday Heroes” showcases ordinary individuals who lived and worked in our community, including those still alive today. The magazine also features interviews with various professionals. From the beginning, „Kurier” has provided information about the work of Blazowa's councillors. The editor-in-chief had a vision for the role of a local government magazine, believing it should integrate the community rather than create conflict. As a result, starting with issue 13 in 1994, the Municipality of Blazowa became the sole publisher of „Kurier.”

The editors of „Kurier” have always aimed to present the public with an ac-



Anna Heller receives congratulations on behalf of the editorial team.

curate account of community events, detailing what happened, where, and when. In a time before Facebook, „Kurier Błażowski” served as a local chronicle, capturing everything happening within the community.

Receiving recognition for our efforts is a gratifying experience, indicating that we are progressing in the right direction. A simple „thank you” or „good

job” is often sufficient to express appreciation. However, throughout its years of operation, „Kurier” has also received numerous awards in the category of local government magazines.

In the Blazowa community, this publication's credibility is unquestioned, and residents regard it as their own. Many people in Blazowa affectionately refer to it as “our Kurier.” The magazine holds significant value for its readers,



A cake to celebrate the publication of the magazine's 200th issue.

with articles contributed by individuals actively engaged in local community issues. The editorial team comprises social activists, including librarians, teachers, doctors, and professionals from various fields.

The magazine covers a wide range of topics, making it a diverse publication. Subjects include local government matters, culture, history, traditions, sports, health, cuisine, and even news from the county. Notably, there are as many as 16 permanent columns in „Kurier.”

In 1991, the magazine's editorial team consisted of Tadeusz Woźniak, Danuta Heller, Agata Faraś, Stanisław Koczela, Stanisława Bęben, and Ryszard Olejnik. The editorial team has evolved over the

33 years of the magazine's publication. While some original members are still part of the team, many others are no longer with us.

Since 2009, Jakub Heller has been responsible for the computer typesetting and technical editing of the „Kurier.” He manages the entire visual presentation of the publication, which required him to quickly master the complexities of text layout, photo editing, and preparation for printing—tasks that are more

Since its inception, “Kurier Błazowski” has been a reliable companion to the local government. Although the authorities may change, the magazine remains steadfast. It's important to highlight that “Kurier” is a valuable intermediary between successive administrations and the residents. It is not and has never been, a mouthpiece for those in power. Articles previously signed “Obserwator,” which began with phrases like „I kindly inform you that...,” quickly disappeared from the



Regular columns in the magazine.

intricate than they may initially appear. It's not merely a matter of copying and pasting. In addition to his editing work, Jakub is the author of several regular columns featured in both the newspaper and on the website of the Blazowa Library, where the electronic version of „Kurier” is hosted.

Based on his column “Graves of Our Ancestors,” he developed the Blazowa “Grobnet,” which significantly aids visitors and others in locating specific graves. Anna Renata Krawiec provides the materials for this project.

magazine's pages.

The main principle is straightforward: anyone can contribute as long as they sign their work and do not offend others. “Kurier” has been published continuously for over 33 years. Many publications have failed to endure the test of time, which is why the efforts of the “Kurier Błazowski” editorial team deserve our respect.

**Councillor for the Blazowa
Town Council
Elżbieta Pęcka**



Celebrating the release of the 200th issue of „Kurier Błazowski.”

Old photos tell their story...

In this edition of old photography, I wanted to share photos from Blazowa taken in the 1980s. It may seem like it was not long ago, but it has been



There used to be a "Venus" cinema in Blazowa.

40 years! The cobblestones, instead of asphalt, added charm to the main street of Blazowa. Older residents fondly remember the Venus cinema, which drew crowds for movie nights. Many people were eager to attend.

The boarding house of Blazowa High School was once vibrant and full of life; today, it stands as a crumbling ruin, evoking a sense of neglect and the smell of mustiness. Mowing grain with a scythe and stacking sheaves is a sight that has become quite rare.



We are unlikely to encounter thatched houses anymore.

As I look through these old photographs, memories of my childhood in the 80s and 90s come flooding back. I remember those times very well. Childhood memories are often idealized and viewed with great sen-



Former primary school building, later a boarding house.

timent, but who could forget the joy of playing hopscotch, enjoying Turbo and Donald gum, and finding little comics hidden in the packaging? It was a time often remembered with affection.

We spent entire days outdoors, playing games like hide-and-seek and football. The sidewalks and streets in front of our blocks were filled



with drawings made with coloured chalk. We played games like dodgeball and donkey, showing great ingenuity. In the stairwell of my block of flats on 10 Armii Krajowej Street, in



Harvester at work.

1977 there were 17 children, but now there is only one. And that was in just one of three stairwells.

There were not as many sweets available as now, and chewing gumballs tasted delightful.

What was childhood like during the Polish People's Republic? Is there anything worth missing?



Harvest in the past.

The yards were bustling with activity—children played on carpet beaters and played games like hopscotch, hide-and-seek, jump rope, and dodgeball. They spent more time outside than at home or in school. In the Polish People's Republic context, orange soda with sugar was an everyday treat. Still, there was little concern about obesity, as physical activity was more effective at combating it than any diet.

Nobody missed having a mobile phone; social interactions thrived more than ever, not only among children but also among adults. Gatherings for parties, name days, and family events took place alongside work and school.

In those days, meeting in person was the primary way to exchange information and maintain relationships. Few people could rely on a landline phone, as installing one could take years.

In the 1980s, store-bought toys and clothing were relatively rare. However, that doesn't mean we lacked interesting toys or unique clothing. Handmade toys, which were essential then, fostered creativity far more than many educational toys so easily bought in stores now. My mom knitted beautiful sweaters for us, and we took immense pride in the handmade clothes we created ourselves, such as ironing designs on T-shirts and dyeing fabric.

Anything purchased from Pewex brought us more joy than the mountain of toys that today's children have at their disposal.

There were no cartoons on TV except for the bedtime stories that every child eagerly anticipated. At 7:30 PM, after the bedtime story, it was time for us to go to bed.

Additional photos can be found on the Blazowa Library website and Facebook. As always, I encourage anyone who wishes to share their memories or old photographs to contact the editorial team.

Jakub Heller



Formerly the Kalandyk bakery.



The town's center.



Armii Krajowej Street.



Bus station in Blazowa - 1980s





Panoramic view of Blazowa.

Parish Church of St. Martin in Blazowa



One of the most interesting buildings in Blazowa, and at the same time its showpiece, is the Parish Church of St. Martin.

Location and History

Overview

Blazowa is situated in the Dynowskie Foothills (Pogorze Dynowskie), 24 km south of Rzeszow. Historical records first mention the town in 1429, and it was previously known as „Złotowieniec.” According to legend, it received this name from King Władysław Jagiello, who passed through the area and was inspired by the golden grain fields surrounding it.

In 1770, Blazowa obtained municipal rights as a private property. Throughout the 19th century, the town gained fame for its linen production, boasting around 1,300 weaving workshops. A significant portion of Blazowa's residents were Jewish, all of whom were deported to the Rzeszow ghetto during World War II.

The church

The neo-Gothic church of St. Martin, built at the end of the 19th century, is the most prominent structure in Blazowa. The first parish in Blazowa was established in 1432, as documented in historical records. Unfortunately, the original documentation has not survived. However, at the request of Piotr Sasin, the parish priest of Blazowa, a copy was made on October 30, 1634. This copy confirms that the parish was established on April 9, 1432, through the endowment of Małgorzata and Piotr Kunath, the Sandomierz sword-bearer.

The first church was made of wood and was surrounded by a moat, into which water from the Ryjak River flowed. The river often flooded, affecting

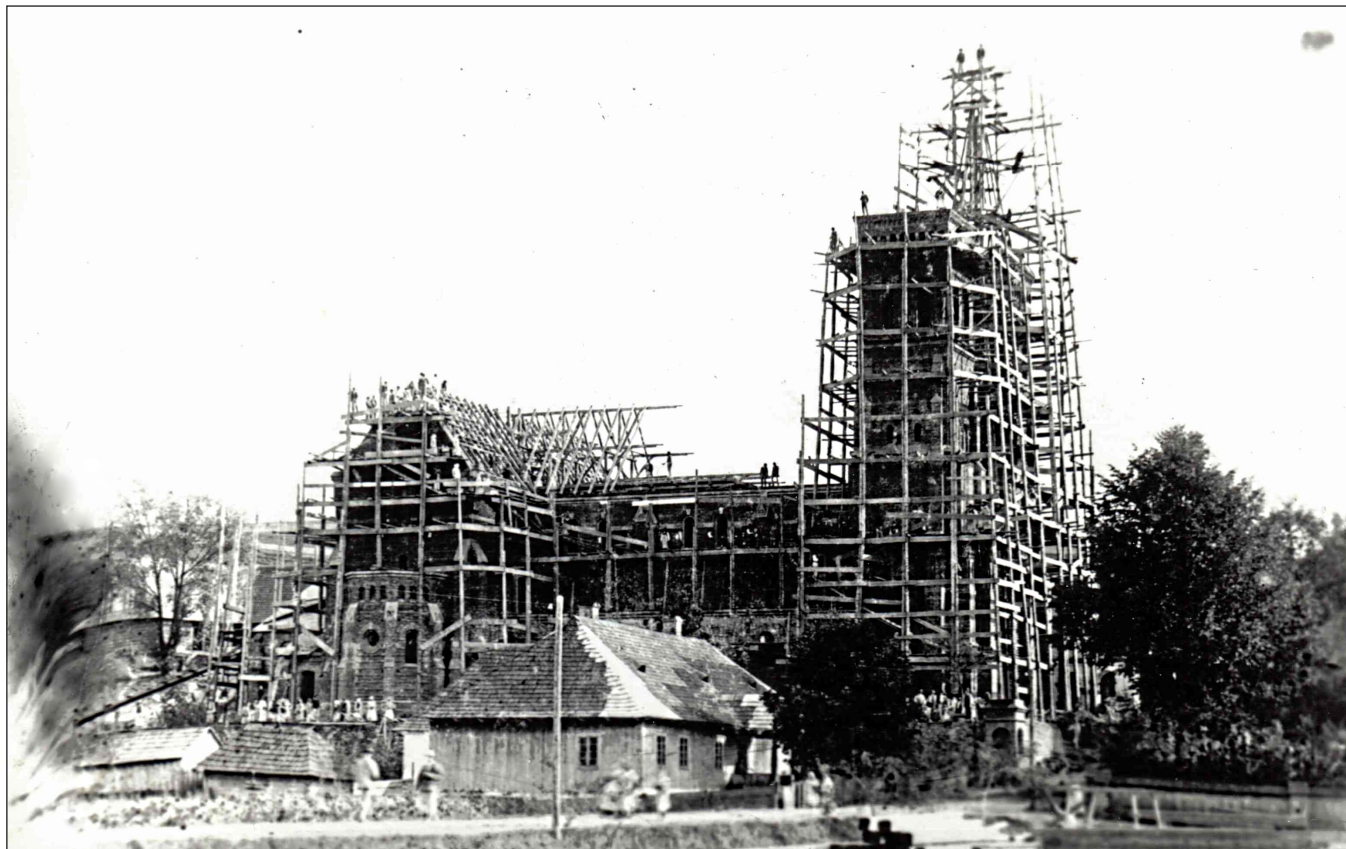
the temple. The moat served a defensive purpose. In 1624, during a Tatar attack, the church remained intact, demonstrating that the moat effectively fulfilled its function.

However, over time, the church deteriorated, and by the mid-19th century, it was decided to demolish the old structure and build a new one. Construction of the new church began in 1822, but it was located in a different area due to the frequent flooding of the river.

Thanks to the endowment from Karol Jerzy Fleming and his wife, Karolina Henryka, a new wooden church was built on a stone foundation in 1836. As the parish grew, it became evident that this new church was too small to accommodate the needs of the parishioners.

Construction of the Church

Between 1896 and 1900, the third church in Blazowa was built according



The church during construction in the late 19th and early 20th century.

to the design of the renowned Lviv architect Jan Sas-Zubrzycki. Zubrzycki received a gold medal for this design at the Krakow Exhibition in Lviv.



The new St. Martin's Church, 1904. First from the left Stanislaw Jaskiewicz.

The construction cost half a million crowns. For 27 years, from 1879 to 1906, the parishioners collected contributions for this noble cause. It is important to note that the people of Blazowa were not affluent, and every donation represented a significant sacrifice for them. Additionally, fellow countrymen from the USA provided financial support for the project. The

then parish priests, Blessed Father Bronisław Markiewicz and Father Leon Kwiatkowski (the church builder) played a crucial role in creating this magnificent temple.

Fire in Błazowa

As the source from the Blazowa Primary School's archive described, on May 15, 1907, at 4:30 p.m., Blazowa was engulfed in flames, driven by the wind towards the church.



The gutters of the church filled with embers, the windows cracked, and smoke filled the interior. The fire destroyed archives in the attic, wooden confessionals, several paintings, and small wooden items, but the building survived. Unfortunately, the fire destroyed Kazimierz Krygowski's workshop, which contained an

almost finished side altar, materials for a second altar, and all the workshop equipment.

Securing the Church Against Disaster

Between 1926 and 1946, cracks began to appear on the church walls, which have worsened over time. This deterioration was likely due to the building being constructed on ground that lacked sufficient strength. It's possible that the cracks first emerged

during the church's construction. In the spring of 1964, after prolonged rainfall, approximately 0.50 hectares of earth slid toward the church, reaching the height of its windows. As a result, the church's vaults cracked, most notably above the main altar in front of the presbytery, where bricks fell over an area of about 1.5 square meters.

The destruction was compared to an avalanche or earthquake.

Between 100 and 150 daily, the parishioners rushed to save the church by moving approximately 3,000 carts of earth, totalling 7,000 cubic meters.

The Church today

This impressive building is designed in the neo-Gothic style and constructed with red bricks, interspersed every few layers with black, glazed *zendrówka*. Unplastered stone blocks highlight key elements, such as the main entryway, plinths, and sacristy.



There used to be farm buildings behind the church.

The church features three naves, measuring 54 meters in width and 72 meters in length. It boasts two towers, each 50 meters tall. One of the towers has a functioning clock with a white face.

The church features a gable roof



adorned with red ceramic tiles, which is intersected perpendicularly by the roof of the transept. Inside, the presbytery is closed off by a five-bay apse. The central nave consists of four bays, while the side aisles are narrower and lower in height. Cross vaults span the ground floors of the towers, as well as the primary and side aisles, the transept, the presbytery, the sacristy, and the women's gallery, known in Polish as „babiniec,” which refers to a room designated for women.

The floor is covered with cracked old tiles that show the effects of time. Although plans were to replace them with new tiles, doing so would diminish the

church's charm. Inside the temple, the pillars alternate between round and square shapes, richly decorated with botanical elements. Before the renovation, the round pillars still featured intricate patterns.

On one of the pillars on the left side of the central nave is a beautifully decorated wooden lectern (pulpit) with



a canopy featuring Gothic turrets at each corner and an entrance accessed by steps. The windows are adorned with stunning, colourful stained glass, which replaced the formerly transparent panes. Krosno artists Stefan Matejko, Stanisław Bergman, and Kasper Żelechowski created the paintings. The Stations of the Cross were crafted in the Kraków workshop of Stanisław Przybylski and were consecrated on January 11, 1903, by Father Latus Zisliński from the

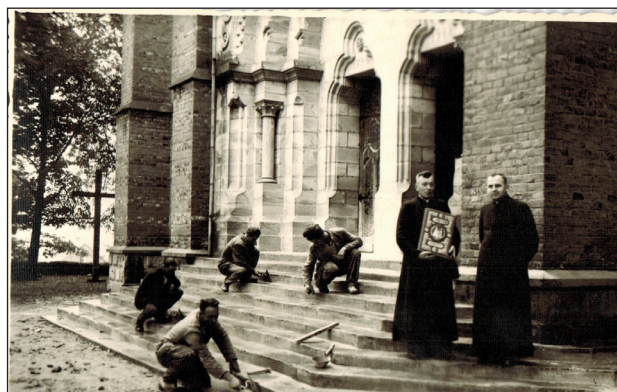
Capuchin order in Sędziszów. It is unknown who created the altar of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the altar of St. Francis. According to the designs by Jan Sas-Zubrzycki, the main altar, the side altars, the pulpit, and the confessionals were commissioned to the renowned artist Kazimierz Krygowski from Futoma, who relocated to Błażowa for the duration of the church's construction.

The church features a magnificent



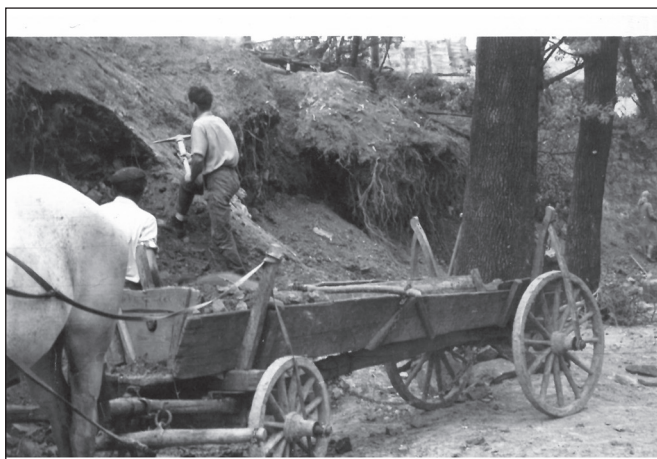
organ with pipes, a keyboard, and mechanisms assembled by Alojzy Konieczny from Przemyśl. This extensive project took him nearly three years, from November 1906 to August 14, 1909. Kazimierz Krygowski crafted the wooden elements. Above the entrance is a large, stunning rosette filled with stained glass.

Recently, the church has undergone a thorough renovation. A team of artists from the Academy of Fine Arts in



The repair of the staircase was overseen by Father Joseph Kruczek.





The residents of Blazowa came together to save the church.

Krakow has restored the polychrome paintings. The vaults, previously blue with golden stars, have been repainted in a solid colour. The enormous chandeliers have also been restored, with all the gilding completed by Zdzisław Niemiec from Łańcut. Renovation work is still being carried out to preserve and enhance the church's beautiful exterior.

In today's world, it is remarkable to think that, without machines or construction equipment, people could build such an impressive temple using only their hands and determination. The parish church in Blazowa stands as the most iconic building in town and serves as a source of pride for the community.

Anna Heller

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Renovation of the cross on one of the church's towers.



Church in Blazowa in winter.

The Atlas townhouse in Blazowa



An old abandoned townhouse stands on the corner of 3 Maja and Grunwaldzka streets. It is most often associated with the police station that was located there after the war. Some people remember that during the war, there was a German criminal police station in this building. Few, if any, are aware that before the war, the Atlas family lived there: Jakub and Debora (Dora) along



1940s

with their five children—Józef, Chena, Elias, Chunas, and Icchak. Only Józef survived the war; the other family members were murdered in Belzec. Icchak was just 8 years old.

In the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive's repository, there is an interview with Holocaust survivor Józef Atlas, conducted in 1996 while he was living in the United States. In the interview, he discusses the tragedy of the war years and the joyful moments of everyday life in pre-war Blazowa.

Jakub Atlas was a textile merchant who employed 100 to 150 Polish weavers, who crafted various types of canvas in their homes. He sold these fabrics primarily, with higher-quality fabrics going to Krakow, Tarnow, and Lviv, while the thicker, coarser materials were mainly sent to Ukraine. For many

Polish families in the area, this work was their primary source of income, especially during the winter months when fieldwork came to a halt.

Jakub acted as his own sales representative, which required him to spend a significant amount of time away from home—typically two weeks each month. The first week was dedicated to visiting Krakow and nearby towns, while the second week involved traveling to Tarnow and Lviv, nearly reaching the Romanian border. Back at home, Debora managed the household, and as her son recalled, "With five children, she had her hands full."



The center of the town -1987.

The family appeared to be well-off, as they were able to employ two women to assist with household tasks. One woman handled the cleaning, while the other helped care for the children. Cooking, however, remained the exclusive responsibility of the lady of the house, as all meals had to be prepared according to kosher guidelines. When asked about his mother's favorite dishes, the older man smiled fondly and said, "Oh, everyone thinks their mother is the greatest cook... but she really baked exceptionally well..."

The boys began their education in a public primary school at the age of six. Each morning, they would attend prayers in the synagogue before spending the morning hours at their Polish

school. Afterwards, they hurried home for dinner, as their afternoons were dedicated to studying in Hebrew school, where they typically remained until 7:00 or 8:00 p.m. This schedule left little time for games and fun with their Polish friends, which likely contributed to their sense of separateness. They could only play football together during the summer holidays.

Like other Jewish girls from more traditional families, Chena could not attend cheder, which was reserved for boys. In addition to her education at the Polish primary school, Chena likely received lessons at home, where

she learned from Debora how to recite blessings, traditional prayers, and both Yiddish and Hebrew.

As I walk past the Atlas townhouse, I like to imagine its interior on Friday evening, just before the Shabbat begins. I can vividly picture a beautifully set table, with Jakub inviting one of his less fortunate Jewish neighbours to join them for dinner, as is customary. I imagine Debora lighting the Shabbat candles and singing the blessing while children eagerly await the holiday challah. I can almost hear a cheerful „Shabbat shalom!" and, in my mind, I respond, „May your Shabbat be a Shabbat of peace..."

Magdalena Kowalska-Cheffey

Jewish cemetery in Blazowa

The Jewish cemetery in Blazowa is a site worth visiting. It is located northeast of Blazowa, on a hill opposite the church, and covers approximately 0.60 hectares. Many of the matzevot (tombstones) are overturned and covered with moss. The oldest matzevah

They expressed gratitude and went to see it, but he never heard from them again.

Danuta Heller also recalls a visit from Jews to their town in 1992. Guests from overseas, dressed in traditional garments with sidelocks, wanted to see the place of their birth and



In August 2024, the Informal Historical Group „To Save from Obscurity,” which is associated with the public library in Blazowa, began their work at the local Jewish cemetery. The group cleared overgrown bushes and cleaned approximately 40 gravestones



Cleaning matzevot in the Jewish cemetery.



dates back to 1865, with around 100 matzevot in total.

The late Władysław Kaczyński recalled the time when the Jewish population lived in Blazowa. He mentioned the cemetery in „Kurier Błażowski,” noting that it was once well maintained. The fence was made of concrete and carefully looked after by Poles hired by the Jewish community. The tombstones were beautifully decorated and crafted from marble. Sadly, after the war, the cemetery was subjected to robbery and devastation. Kaczyński remembered that about 15 years ago, a group of Jews visited Blazowa from Leżajsk to inquire about the cemetery. He guided them to its location and described its condition.

share it with their children. „I showed them around the city, and they asked about the Blazowa Library, which once housed a Jewish inn (austeria),” Heller recounted. „I then handed the group over to the late Ignacy Wencel, who accompanied them to the cemetery. I don't know any more details about their visit.”

Before the war, approximately 900 Jews lived in Blazowa. In 1942, they were deported to the Rzeszow ghetto, but their presence has permanently impacted the history of our town.

For years, the cemetery was neglected and overgrown with wild and self-seeded plants.

(matzevot). By October, they completed the next stage of their work, which involved removing dry branches and shrubs, allowing them to uncover additional matzevot. There is still much work to be done.

Due to the devastation, it is estimated that over 100 tombstones have survived in the cemetery, albeit in various states of preservation. Thanks to the preserved fragments of the wall, the cemetery's boundaries remain legible.

We have received permission to conduct our work from the owner of the cemetery, the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland, in collaboration with the



The Jewish cemetery in Blazowa.



Provincial Office for the Protection of Monuments. All our efforts are undertaken on a volunteer basis because we believe that the burial site of our former Jewish neighbours deserves respect. Sadly, in Blazowa, no one remains to tend

to the graves of their ancestors buried in the Jewish cemetery.

There is still much work to be done. We encourage anyone interested in joining us to contact the Blazowa Library.

This place is worth visiting; it fosters contemplation and reflection while surrounded by beautiful nature. I highly recommend it.

Anna Heller



Guests from abroad at the Jewish cemetery in Blazowa during the Holocaust Remembrance Day commemoration organized by the Blazowa Library.

Blazowa's Planty

Blazowa's Planty, the town's green space, was once home to a bustling market—a hub for trade and gatherings. Where the apartment block now stands, there used to be Jewish tenement houses. Before the outbreak

of World War II, approximately 900 Jewish residents lived in Blazowa. In 1942, the Germans relocated the Jewish population to the Rzeszow ghetto, from where they were later transported to Belzec. Over time, the



Planty 1990s



This monument stood in place of the cross.



On the site of the present green was once the Blazowa market - 1940s. Here, Jewish tenements are still visible.

old houses in the square were demolished, as renovating them was deemed unprofitable. The memories of that era were shared by the late Blazowa resident Władysław Kaczyński, who began his venture into trade in this very market.

Today, the town's green serves as a relaxing spot where visitors can sit on benches, listen to the soothing sound of the fountain, and enjoy the view of Blazowa. It has also become a popular meeting place for local youth.

Jakub Heller



Plenty at night. Photographed by Jakub Heller.

„Potoki” – Private Museum of the Material Culture of the Podkarpacie Countryside



Augustyn Rybka, driven by his love for his native land and a passion for collecting, established this museum to preserve mementos of the past from fading into obscurity.

History of the Museum

His passion for collecting began in high school when he received an old coffee grinder as a gift. Over the years, he collected postage stamps, coins, medals, banknotes, and various items that were popular among collectors at

the time. As his collection grew, he quickly ran out of space in the two basements designated for this purpose in his new house.

In 2000, Rybka rented several rooms in an empty manor house next to the park in Blazowa. With more space, he



Carpenter's Workshop.



Shoemaker Workshop.



Private Museum of the Material Culture of the Podkarpacie Countryside.

could expand his exhibits, which soon attracted school groups and history enthusiasts. However, when the manor house was sold, he needed to find a new location.

After a lengthy search, he discovered



Depiction of a former classroom.

an old, dilapidated farm in the Wilczak hamlet, albeit one without access roads. However, the farm's location was advantageous, and it featured a large barn to which the exhibition was moved.

This initiative saved the old barn and gave it a new lease on life. The damaged cement roof tiles were replaced with 70-year-old renovated ceramic ones, and the barn, pigsty, stable, and various outlets were transformed into exhibition rooms.

Museum Collection

The barn houses an almost complete ethnographic exhibition, featuring meticulously recreated craft workshops, including a shoemaker, wheelwright, cooper, carpenter's shop, and weaver's room. Folk art is represented through sculptures, wall hangings, and devotional items made by local artisans. Additionally, there is a school classroom from the 1930s and a village room from the same period. Some exhibits are organized to show the evolution of specific daily activities, such as laundry, from a simple washboard to the „Frانيا” washing machine from 1963.

An impressive collection of oil paintings on religious themes, often with educational significance, is also displayed. The paintings' beauty and

the framing by local artists are noteworthy.

While exploring nearby villages for exhibits for the museum, technological relics that had already lost their original purpose and were abandoned in attics and sheds were rescu-

gained popularity. It offers visitors a fascinating history lessons and opportunities for relaxation amidst nature. Seasonal activities include bonfires, summer barbecues, and sleigh rides in winter. The guest book is filled with entries from delighted tourists from Poland, Canada, and



Old children's toys.

ed. This fortunate find led to the establishment of a collection that includes calculating machines, telephones, the first Polish radios, televisions, gramophones, and more. Two rooms now display hundreds of everyday objects neatly arranged on shelves, many of which are now extremely rare and difficult to count.

In a separate pavilion, one can find machines and devices that were once used in farming, including threshing machines, choppers, and winnowing machines.

The spacious barn has also become home to an extensive library, containing several thousand books, most of which were found at antique fairs and rescued from becoming waste paper. One room features a sizeable glass-enclosed veranda and a shelter for meetings during inclement weather. Additionally, there is a mini apiary with old hives, a crane, and a basement called the „shop.” A short distance from the museum stands a commemorative cross honoring the heroic partisans of World War II and a former school building that served as a partisan hospital during the conflict.

Activities

Situated in a picturesque clearing within the forest, the museum quickly

the USA.

The museum's collections are available for sightseeing and research. The owner acquires old objects through various means, ensuring that every item—from a needle to a gramophone to a large threshing machine—is inventoried. Each object has a file containing its name, year of creation, origin, material, creator, and intended use. The museum's primary mission is to preserve these collections for future generations.

Offer

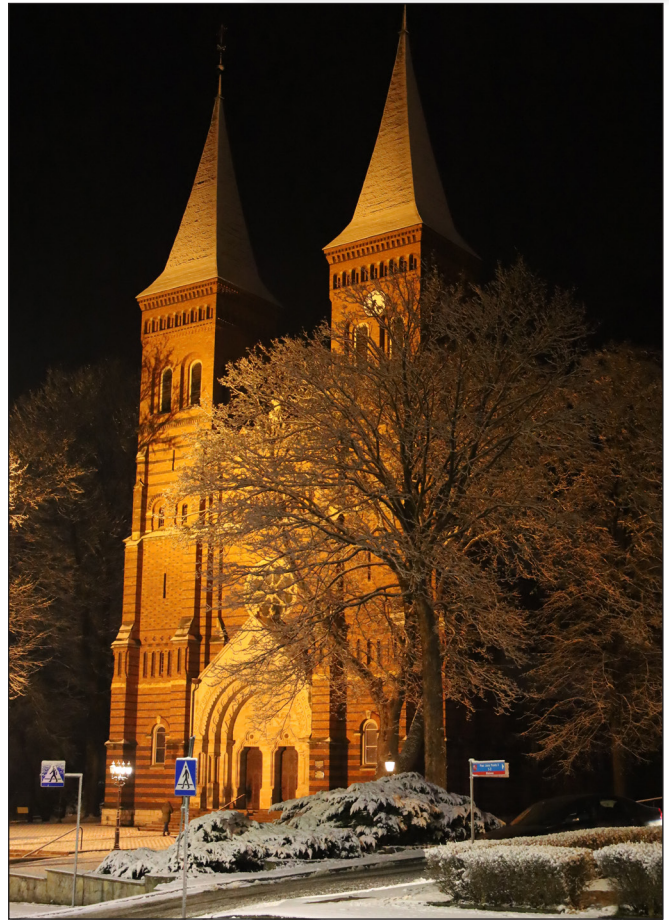
During the summer season, the museum provides unique living history lessons. Set in a clearing surrounded by forest, next to a stream with croaking frogs in the pond and by a bonfire or grill, visitors can appreciate the beauty of nature while learning about the disappearing material culture of the Podkarpacie countryside, captured in the thousands of everyday objects housed within the museum.

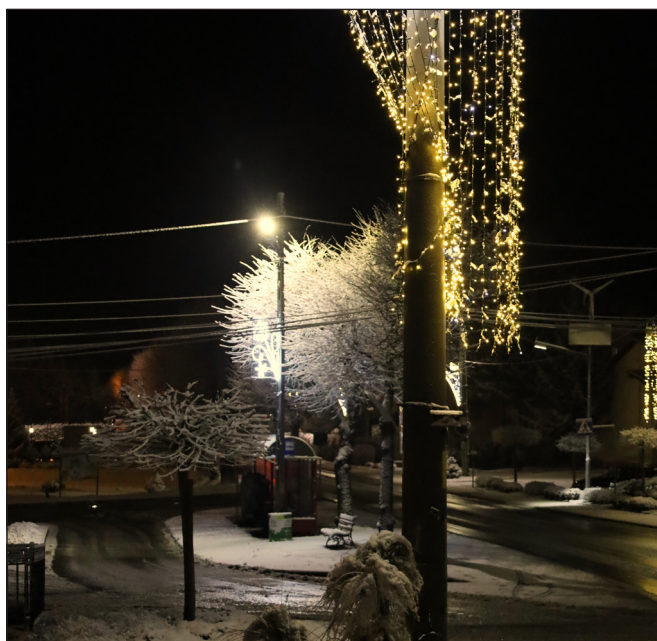
„POTOKI” – Augustyn Rybka's private museum of the material culture of the Podkarpacie countryside cordially invites everyone to visit.

Anna Heller

Blazowa – Winter 2024

Let's enjoy a little stroll through our sleepy winter town. Christmas lights, snow covered trees and shrubs, quietness of the evening... and the cold stinging one's cheeks – best childhood memories are made from moments like these. And in winter, everybody carries that wide-eyed child within, waiting to find a door to Narnia, and all the adventures still awaiting to be lived.



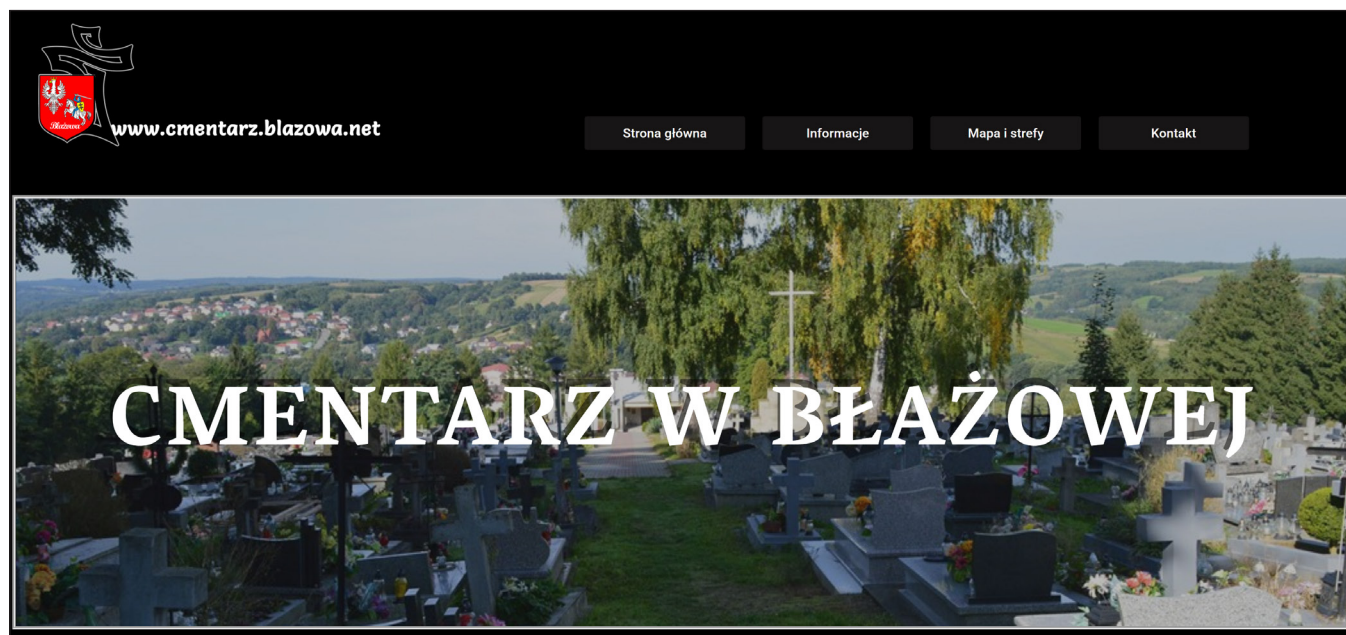


Photographed by Jakub Heller.

Searching for graves in the Blazowa cemetery

The Blazowa cemetery is divided into XVIII zones. Each grave has its own number. The search field is located in the "Map and Zones" section. You should enter the surname and first name of the deceased in quotation marks, e.g. "Kowalski Jan". It will then display the information in which zone the grave is located. When you enter this zone, the person you are looking for will be highlighted in yellow.

Created by Jakub Heller, list of graves Anna Renata Krawiec, contemporary photos Jakub Heller, photos from a drone Sebastian Mazur.



www.cmentarz.blazowa.net

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