

## Calendar of Stefan Mrożewski's life and work

(from: <http://mnki.pl/en/s,394,Calendar.html>)

### **12th April 1894**

Stefan Mrożewski was born as a son of Marianna whose maiden name was Heimlich (1874-1932) and Franciszek Mrożewski (1857-1916). He spent childhood in Sosnowiec, when he was 14 as a result of hard financial situation of his family he gave up school and started to work in Chemical Laboratory in Sosnowiec.

### **1909**

He sent his works on the exhibition *Art and a child* organized by the Fine Arts Society in Lviv, he was rewarded with a diploma.

### **1911-1916**

He moved to Łódź, started work in Farming Machines Factory (he was designing advertising brochures), in the evenings he went to the private school of drawing and painting under Jerzy Lechman, made polychromies to church in Dobra near Łódź.

### **1919-1920**

He fought as a volunteer in the Polish Army at the cartographic unit in the Fifth Army under gen. Sikorski's command.

### **1921**

He started studies at the Public School of Decorative Arts in Poznań, after six months he dropped out of school, went to Cracow and started studies at the Free School of Painting and Drawing under Ludwika and Wilhelm Mehoffer.

### **1923-1924**

Studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Faculty of Graphic Arts, under Władysław Skoczylas' guidance first graphic works were created, mainly wood engravings.

### **1925**

Before getting a diploma he went to Paris; individual displays in Caen and Paris; many town views, genre and religious scenes were made.

### **1926**

Participation in group exhibitions: Premiere Exposition Interalliee des Artistes et Artisans Anciens Combattants in Caen, (Mrożewski's wood engraving *A soldier on barricade* appeared on the catalogue cover); exhibition at Gallerie Lachenal in Paris; On the commission of Romanian publishing house illustrations to *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fiodor Dostojewski and to autobiographical novel *Les Cahiers de Malte Laurids Brigge* by Rainer Maria Rilke were created; both books were published in the same year, unfortunately, they were destroyed and woodblocks were lost.

### **1927**

Participation in group exhibitions: Autumn Salon in Warsaw Zachęta Gallery, Autumn Salon at the Grand Palais in Paris.

## 1928

Individual exhibitions: Studio Scribe Gallery in Paris. Participation in group exhibitions: 1st Graphics Salon of the Society of Polish Graphic Artists in Warsaw, participation in group exhibitions: Autumn Salon in Warsaw Zachęta Gallery, Autumn Salon at the Grand Palais in Paris; exhibition of wood engravings in the Marsan pavilion in Paris.

## 1929

On the commission of Colette Weil, the owner of Parisian publishing house Apollo, he created illustrations to *Le roi au masque d'or* by Marcel Schwob. The work was printed in the printing house of Leon Pichon in an edition of 100 numbered copies. There also was created a series of illustrations to *Dziela* by Adam Mickiewicz. Participation in group exhibitions: General Polish Exhibition in Poznań (Mrożewski presented there illustrations to *Le roi au masque d'or* by Marcel Schwob, was rewarded for them with huge silver medal), Polish Modern Art Exhibition in Galerie Editions, exhibition in Galerie Colette Weil in Paris, in Galerie Bonaparte in Paris.

## 1929-1930

Illustrations to *Le Grand Testament* by Villon were created, they were published as a case in 1930 in the publishing house Apollo in an edition of 100 numbered copies.

## 1930

Participation in group exhibitions: 2nd Graphics Exhibition of the Society of Polish Graphic Artists in Warsaw Zachęta Gallery; Graphic Art Showroom at Czesław Garliński's in Warsaw (together with members of „Ryt” Society before he joined in formally), furthermore in London, Hague, Brussels, Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Haarlem. To order of Warsaw publishing house of Jakub Mortkowicz Mrożewski began to work on illustrations to *Don Quixote* by Cervantes. Those wood engravings were presented on the exhibition of Polish graphics in Zachęta; he was awarded for them with financial prize. Only first volume of the book was published. Wood blocks deposited in the store of the publishing house in the building „Under the Poets Sign” burnt down during the Warsaw Uprising. In Paris Mrożewski made an acquaintance with Ludwik Wiktor Kielbass – a gardener and orchardist, a collector by avocation, who having been fascinated with his works bought majority of them. In the next years he systematically increased his collection with new graphics (huge part was given to him by the artist himself).

## 1931

He became a member of „Ryt” Society; individual exhibitions: in Buffa & Zonn Gallery in Amsterdam and in Galerie Bonaparte in Paris. Participation in group exhibitions: Spring Salon in the Institute of Art Propaganda in Warsaw, Graphics Salon 1931 at Czesław Garliński's, Salon International de Livre d'art (Mrożewski presented illustrations to *Don Quixote* there), November Salon in the Institute of Art Propaganda in Warsaw, exhibition of „Ryt” Society in the Fine Arts Friends Society in Cracow, Autumn Salon in Paris; at the end of 1931 and the beginning of 1932 Winter Salon in the Institute of Art Propaganda in Warsaw.

## 1932

He left Paris; after short stay in Poland (among others in Warsaw and in Sudół near Jędrzejów at L.W. Kielbass') settled in Netherlands in Amsterdam. Individual exhibitions: Zachęta in Warsaw (100 works), Galeria Miejska in Łódź (81 works). Participation in group exhibitions: 3th Biennial Polish Graphics Exhibition of Polish Graphic Artists Association in Warsaw (awarded for illustrations to *Don Quixote*); Goethe in der Buchkunst der Welt in Leipzig; exhibition of „Ryt” Society in the Institute of Art Propaganda in Warsaw, Polish Ecclesial Art in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, Zachęta in

Warsaw. He was awarded with bronze medal for taking part in annual Salon by the Fine Arts Association Zacheęa in Warsaw.

### **1933**

Individual exhibitions: Rotterdamsche, Kunstkring in Rotterdam. Participation in group exhibitions: Polish Graphics Exhibition in Direction Nacional de bellas Artes in Palais de Glace in Buenos Aires; 1st International Modern Wood Engravings Exhibition in Warsaw (award of Postal Saving Bank and honorary diploma), exhibition of 5 Artistic Societies Association in the Institute of Art Propaganda in Warsaw, annual wood engravings exhibition organized by Association du Bois Gravé Lyonnais in Lyon, exhibitions in Chicago, Milwaukee, Dublin and Paris; 2nd prize in the competition on ex-libris in Hague.

### **1934**

Individual exhibitions: Santee Landweer in Amsterdam, Kunstzaal d'Audretsch in Hague. Participation in group exhibitions: 4th Winter Salon in the Institute of Art Propaganda in Warsaw, 2nd International Ecclesial Art Exhibition in Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna in Rome, Biennial Graphics Exhibition of the Society of Polish Graphic Artists (President of Warsaw award), Graphics' Salon in the rooms of „Ład” in Warsaw; presentation of works applied on the 1st Graphic Competition of „Kurjera Poznańskiego” on the most beautiful view of Poznań in the salon of the Institute of Art Propagation in Poznań (1st prize). Illustrations to *Parsifal* by Wolfram von Eschenbach were being made.

### **1935**

Settled in London, started a cooperation with Time and Tide magazine (published there series of portraits of: B. Shaw, J. R. Kipling, G. K. Chesterton, H. G. Wells, N. Chamberlain and royal family members – George V and Elisabeth II as a young princess) and publishing houses Gregynog Press and Nonesuch Press. Individual exhibitions: Beaux - Arts Gallery in London, Albert Rouiller Art Galleries in Chicago, Wadington Gallery in Dublin, Redfem Gallery in Dublin, in Milwaukee and Chicago. Participation in group exhibitions: 5th Winter Salon of the Institute of Art Propaganda in Warsaw (Ministry of Religion and Art Propaganda award), Galerie des Beaux-Arts in Paris – exhibition of Polish artists being active in France organized by Parisian Group of Polish Artists, exhibition of “Ryt” Society in the Institute of Art Propaganda in Warsaw, Polish graphics exhibition in Museo de Arte Moderne in Madrid.

### **1936**

Individual exhibitions: Salon of the Fine Arts Friends Society in Poznań, Delgado Museum in New Orleans, Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, Institute of Art Propaganda in Warsaw. Participation in group exhibitions: Polnishe Kunst in the City Museum of Szczecin, Polish graphics exhibition in the School of Art in Oklahoma, Sport in the Art (exhibition was a part of the XI Olympic Games in Berlin), exhibition of “Ryt” Society Gdynia, Polish graphics in the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown (exhibition was also shown in other places in the USA and Canada), Polish Art in Victoria and Albert Museum in London, XX Biennale in Venice, exhibition in the Institute of Art Propaganda in Łódź, 2nd International Modern Wood Engravings Exhibition in Warsaw (the award and honorary diploma).

### **1937**

Come-back to Poland, family settled down in Sudół in L.W. Kielbass' mansion, the artist himself rented rooms in the town hall tower in Warsaw. Individual exhibitions: the Fine Arts Friends Society in Cracow, Palace of Art in Lviv and Sosnowiec. Participation in group exhibitions: Polish Museum in

Rapperswil (together with "Ryt" Society), International Exhibition Art and Technology 1937 in Paris (Grand Prix in graphics), Hunting in Polish art Zachęta in Waraw, Exhibition of painting, sculpture and graphics as a part of Polish Art Festival in Resursa Obywatelska in Warsaw, exhibition of Polish Graphic Artists Association in Warsaw Zachęta, V International Exhibition of Lithography and Wood Engravings in The Art Institute of Chicago, 5th International Graphics Exhibition in Philadelphia.

### **1938**

For the royalty received for illustrations to the *Legends of Warsaw* Mrozewski went to Italy (Florence, Rome, Naples, Palermo, Perugia, Terracina) to get some materials to *Divine Comedy* by Dante; first illustrations were made. Participation in group exhibitions: Biennale di Venezia, Polish Prints and Textiles in the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa, Tree-Wood-Wood engraving in the Head Office of National Forests in Warsaw, X Salon of the Institute of Art Propaganda in Warsaw.

### **1939-1945**

He spent war together with his family in L.W. Kielbass' mansion in Sudół (till 1942), In Czaryż, the Siemieńscy's mansion and in Jędrzejów at Przypkowski family's. Next wood blocks to *Divine Comedy* as well as numerous portraits, ex-libris, religious scenes and those connected with war (e.g. Hitler and Death) were made. He became a member of a secret Circle of Lovers of Ex-libris and Graphics (1940) established by Tadeusz Leszner; acted in resistance movement (unit AK Włoszczowa - Jędrzejów, prepared false documents, was the author of artistic setting of guerilla magazine „Werbel”). Participation in group exhibitions: (1939) World's Fair In New York, 12th Exhibition of Drawings of „Ryt” Society” Warsaw, Contemporary Military Graphics, Poznań (awarded), exhibition of graphics in the town library in Orleans; (1943) exhibition of graphics and sculpture in „Nike” Salon in Warsaw.

### **1945**

Became a chairman of Polish Graphic Artists Association in Katowice, moved with his family there; he was also a professor in the newly-created School of Arts, participated in the activities of the Town Council. In July he illegally left Poland – went to France, lived in Paris and Plessis-Robinson.

### **1946**

Participation in group exhibitions: Polish Spring Salon of Polish Artists Association in the National Museum in Warsaw, exhibition of Polish contemporary graphic art in Moscow. Series of illustrations to immigration publications were created (among others *Trzy miłości* by C.K. Norwid, *Witraże* by Eugenia Markowa) and a series of wood engravings presenting F. Dostojewski's life.

### **1947**

Participation in group exhibitions: in Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, on the International Edinburgh Festival.

### **1948**

Individual exhibitions: Stedelijk van Abbe Museum w Eindhoven and in the Boymans Museum in Rotterdam. Participation in group exhibitions: Club des Relations Intellectuelles Internationales (together with Konstanty Brandl). A series *La Belle et la Bête* by Madame de Villeneuve was created. 1st prize for the wood engraving *Christ and a woman of Samaria* in the competition on a work based on biblical theme organized in Helvoirt. He cooperated with Philips company, for which he created many wood engravings (portraits of the owner, scenes from the factory, diplomas).

### **1950**

Individual exhibitions: Exhibition of Wood Engravings by Stefan Mrozewski in Albright Art Gallery in

Buffalo, the display was accompanied by bibliophile edition of the catalogue with original wood engraving on the cover ( *Leda*) and *The soul of Warsaw* prepared in 27 copies. Participation in group exhibitions: International Exhibition of Religious Art in Rome (Mrożewski presented his works in Dutch department). Series of illustrations to anthology *The most outstanding poets of present emigration* ed. by S. Lama and to medieval Dutch moral play *Elckerlijc* (publishing house De Ross in Utrecht) were created.

### **1951**

On the commission of De Ross publishing house in Utrecht together with other artists (John Buckland Wright, Valentin le Champion, Dick van Gelder, Mark Severin) created illustrations to the album *The Unicorn*; wood engravings based on biblical themes and mythology, portraits and landscapes were created. In December Mrożewski went to New York.

### **1952**

Apart from graphics Mrożewski devoted a lot of time to painting; worked in many various techniques (watercolour, oil, crayon). Participation in group exhibitions: American Watercolours, Drawings and Prints in Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, 50th Annual International Exhibition of Prints and Drawings in Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and National Exhibition of Prints in the Library of Congress in Washington. He became a grant holder of Huntington Hartford Foundation in Pacific Palisades in California.

### **1953**

Individual exhibitions: Butler Art Institute in Youngstown. Participation in group exhibitions: 56th Annual Washington Watercolour Exhibition in Washington (an award), 59th Annual Exhibition in Denver Art Museum, National Exhibition of Prints in the Library of Congress in Washington, National Exhibition of Prints at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

### **1954**

Participation in group exhibitions: 38th Annual Exhibition of the Society of American Artists in the Kennedy Galleries in New York. Illustrations to *The Wall* by John Hershey were made – a novel about Warsaw getto (they had not been approved, the book was published with different illustrations, Mrożewski published his wood engravings in 1961 under the title *Warsaw getto* in the edition of 35 copies, and in 1966 wood engravings were presented by Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum in Oakland).

### **1955**

Participation in group exhibitions: American Institute of Graphic Arts in Los Angeles

### **1956**

Participation in group exhibitions: 10th National Print Annual in the Brooklyn Museum in New York, Miniature Painter, Sculptors and Gravers Society of Washington in Washington, National Exhibition of Prints in the Library of Congress in Washington.

### **1957**

Made murals in Polish church of Madonna of Jasna Góra in Los Angeles and a mosaic from Venetian glass Madonna of Częstochowa according to the icon in Jasna Góra and a project of decoration on side walls (project was not realised as the client resigned). Mural was destroyed, is known only from photographs.

**1958**

Made decorations in church of St. Patrick in Canutillo in Texas and of St. Francis in Azusa in California, (they didn't endure to our times, they are known from reproductions) .

**1959**

Individual exhibition: Stanford University Art Gallery in Palo Alto, Long Beach Museum of Art (California)

**1963**

Individual exhibitions: Saisset Art Gallery in Santa Clara. A series of illustrations *The Saints and Blessed of Poland*. At the beginning of 1960s Mrożewski took up ceramics; made terracotta sculptures. 1964 The exhibition connected with the jubilee of 50-year artistic work and 70th birthday In the International House in Oakland in California, the exhibition at the University of California in Berkley.

**1965**

A series of wood engravings to the poems by Alicja Pomian-Pożerskiej *Najlonowe skrzydła*.

**1966**

A series of illustrations to the anthology of religious poetry *Madonna of Poets* by Zdzisław Peszkowski and jubilee album *Millenium of Poland's Christianity 966-1966*.

**1967**

Individual exhibition: Galerie d'Art de l'Université de Sherbrooke (Quebec).

**1968**

The first and the last visit in Poland after 1945. Presentation of his works in the National Museum in Warsaw.

**1969**

Finishing of works on the last card to *Divine Comedy*; as Mrożewski had not been able to find a publisher, he decided to publish it with his own funds in three cases (about 20 from 50 planned copies).

**1972**

Illustrations to the book by Wanda Tomczykowa *Polish Christmas Traditions and Legends*.

**1974**

Individual exhibition: Laurentian University Museum and Arts Cener in Sudbury Mrożewski created last in his life wood engraving illustrations to the book by I. Kraszewski *O królewiczu Rumianku i siedmiu królewnach* (published by PIW).

**8th September 1975**

Stefan Mrożewski passed away in Walnut Creek and was buried on the Cemetery of Madonna of Częstochowa in Doylestown in Pensylwania.