The Return of the Paintings of the Brotherhood of St. Luke

Peter J. Obst
Translator & Polonia Activist

When: **Sunday, November 20, 2022 at 3 PM**

Where: **Associated Polish Home (Dom Polski), 9150 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114**

Free admission

Join us for the lecture, with pączki and coffee!

About the Lecture

In 1939, Poland took part in the World's Fair in New York. The exhibition in its pavilion included 7 paintings on historical subjects by the Brotherhood of St. Luke. Because World War II was still raging after the fair closed, the paintings were placed in the care of Le Moyne College in Syracuse, NY. For more than 50 years they hung on the walls of the college library. Many attempts were made, without success, to persuade the college to return them to Poland. Finally, in 2022, an agreement was signed to transfer these works to the new History Museum in Warsaw. The lecture discusses the significance of these paintings, their history, and the historic agreement for their return.

About the Lecturer

Peter J. Obst, born in Poznań, worked as a software engineer in the United States after earning a bachelor's degree in commerce and engineering from Drexel University in Philadelphia and a master's degree in Central and Eastern European Studies from La Salle University. His interest in the history of Polish emigrants, however, led to his work at the Poles in America Foundation, founded by Edward Pinkowski, an eminent historian living in Philadelphia. He has translated several books from Polish into English. He designs and maintains websites for several Polish organizations. He is currently president of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia. He was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit in 2001 and the Eagle of the Senate of the Republic of Poland (Orzeł Senatu RP) in 2009. On May 5, 2022, by decree of President Andrzej Duda, Minister Piotr Gliński presented him with the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit.

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This lecture online