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### Zofia A. Drzewieniecki Curriculum Vitae

Joanna Drzewieniecki

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## ZOFIA ANNA DRZEWIENIECKI

(nee Zofia Hanna Wiśniewska; name during first marriage: Zofia Hanna Krzyżanowska)

### CURRICULUM VITAE

Prepared by: Joanna Drzewieniecki, Ph.D. Revised September 2022

**Born:** Warsaw, Poland, March 1, 1910, died: Buffalo, New York, November 8, 1990.

#### Family

Information based on genealogical research as well as information from family members. For a detailed family tree see ancestry.com: "Drzewieniecki/Birnbaum/Wisniewski Family Tree."

**Maternal Grandfather:** Stanisław Popławski, Polish landowner in Kazan, Russia. Married Józefa Słońska. After the Russian Revolution, the family lived in Warsaw and had a summer "villa" in Brwinów, near Warsaw. The Popławski family was identified as "szlachta" or nobility (see D279, 276).

#### **Parents:**

**Father:** Piotr Stanisław Wiśniewski, lawyer, b. 1871 Wyłudzin, Podlaskie, Poland (Russian Empire), d. Warsaw, 1930. Received a law degree from the Kazan Federal University, Kazan, Tartarstan, Russia. Practiced law in Kazan and then in independent Poland.

**Mother:** Maria (nee Popławska) Wiśniewski, b. October 3, 1885, in Kazan, Tartarstan, Russia. d. in 1970 in Buffalo, NY. Graduated from St. Mary's Women's High School (Mariański Żeński Gimnazjum) in Kazan, Russia, and it said she attended a university for two years before marrying. Maria Wiśniewski's sister Zofia (Tana) was married to Wacław Gawroński, a Polish pre-WWII diplomat who was the Polish Consul-General in Chicago immediately before the war. Gawroński was instrumental in Zofia's entrance into the diplomatic service when her father died in 1930, giving her a job at the Polish Consulate in Berlin, where he was Consul-General at the time. She commuted to Warsaw to continue her law studies. Maria Wiśniewska traveled to the U.S. on the Polish passenger ship "Batory" in late August 1939 and settled in Chicago with her family. Her Alien Registration number was 4353754 and she retained her Polish citizenship to the end of her life.

#### **Siblings:**

**Elder brother:** Dr. Tadeusz Józef Wiśniewski, profession: botanist, b. May 12, 1905, Taganrog, Russia, d. Nov. 30, 1943, Warsaw. Graduated from Gimnazjum Państwowe im. Tadeusza Czaciego, 1923; received a doctorate in Botany from the University of Warsaw, 1930. Professor at the University of Warsaw. He was executed by the German Nazis on the streets of Warsaw during WWII for hiding Home Army (Armia Krajowa) documents in the

Warsaw Botanical Gardens. Tadeusz was interested in botany from the time he was a small boy and his work was already well-known in Europe before WWII.

Marriages: Ewa Śliwiska; Mira Siderowicz.

**Younger brother:** Stanisław Maciej Wiśniewski (Stanley M. Wiśniewski), b. Oct. 9, 1918, Warsaw, Poland, d. October 27, 1960, Toledo, Ohio. Arrived in the U.S. on Nov. 3, 1938. Served in the U.S. Army in WWII, honorably discharged as Technician 5th Grade. In Toledo, he worked in a factory.

**First husband:** Wojciech Stanisław Krzyżanowski (born in Lwów, Poland). Profession: diplomat (married in a civil ceremony on Dec. 23, 1935, in Berlin, where both worked with the Polish diplomatic corps; marriage annulled on June 7, 1945, in Bologna, Italy [see D409, D408]; formal divorce granted in divorce in Munich, Germany, on May 10, 1960 [see D308]). After WWII, Krzyżanowski worked for Radio Free Europe in Germany.

**Second husband (1945 to death):** Walter Marian Drzewieniecki. Professions: military officer, college professor, Polish-American community activist. Married on June 10, 1945, at the San Petronio Church, Bologna, Italy.

**Daughter:** Joanna Elisabeth Drzewieniecki, born: Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, February 12, 1948. Residence since 2010: Lima, Peru. Professions: librarian, human rights activist, political scientist, translator.

### **Education**

Skola Zofii Kurmanowej. Warsaw. [elementary school]

*Her entry to school was delayed because she went to visit her grandparents in Kazan, Russia in 1914 and because of the Revolution, they were unable to return to Poland until 1918. Information from handwritten resume in archives of the University of Warsaw.*

Gimnazjum im. Marii Konopnickiej, Warsaw, 1928. [high school]

Master of Law, University of Warsaw, 1934.

*Note: according to the recollections of Zofia's daughter, Joanna, Zofia's goal was to become a family court judge.*

Master of Science (Library Science), Syracuse University, 1963

### **Employment**

Clerk, Polish Consulate, Berlin, 1931-1936.

Staff member, Polish Red Cross, Lebanon, 1940(?) - 1942.

Officer, Polish YMCA, September, 1942-1946.

Officer, Polish YMCA attached to the Polish Armed Forces, Middle East.

Director, Polish YMCA Branch in Palestine and Egypt attached to the Polish Army in the East.

Deputy Director, Polish YMCA attached to the Polish 2nd Corps, Italy, 1944-1946. (By the end of 1945, the Polish YMCA had a staff of 116).

Staff Member, Polish YMCA attached to the Polish 2nd Corps, London, 1946?

Editorial staff member, Gwiazda Polarna (Polish-language weekly), Stevens Point, Wisconsin, 1956-1959.

Postmistress, University of Chicago Post Office, 1958?-1959.

Employee, Oswego State College Library, 1959?-1963?

Interlibrary Loan Librarian, Curator of the Polish Room Collection, Lockwood Library, State University of New York at Buffalo, 1963-1969. Assistant Librarian and then Associate Librarian.

Cataloger, Butler Library, Buffalo State College, 1969-1971.

### **Awards**

Silver Cross of Merit with Swords, Government of Poland.

British war medals.

Golden Cross of Merit, Polish Government in Exile, London.

### **Articles related to Zofia Drzewieniecki's activities**

[no title] Nowy Dziennik January 1999.

*Notes: about Polish YMCA in WWII. Related photographs are in archive file.*

*Archive holdings: Fronczak Room in "Drzewieniecki Articles 1999" file*

"Former Resident Gets Master's in East." Stevens Point (Wisconsin) Daily Journal, Wednesday, June 12, 1963. p. 8.

*Archive holdings: Fronczak Room (transcription) in Walter "Drzewieniecki Articles 1960s" file and online:*

[http://www.bigalke.biz/susanchapman/obituaries/O\\_1963Jun12\\_SPDjp8\\_GlodowskiLeo.pdf](http://www.bigalke.biz/susanchapman/obituaries/O_1963Jun12_SPDjp8_GlodowskiLeo.pdf)

Kicki, J. "Pismo Polskiej YMCA na Śr. Wschodzie." Poradnik Kulturalno-Oświatowy (Polska YMCA w Europie Zachodniej) no. 212, June 1959: 37-41.

*Archive holdings: Fronczak Room (issue)*

Polska Y.M.C.A. w Wielkiej Brytanii. *Polska YMCA 40 Lat*. London, 1963. p. 21.

Rokicki, Tadeusz. "O Polskiej YMCA w Palestynie." Ogniwo. Biuletyn Informacyjny dla Członków (Polska YMCA, London) no. 32, October, 1973: 20-22.

*Archives holdings: Fronczak Room (volume)*

"Zofia A. Drzewieniecka, 80, dies, assisted Polish forces in WW II." Gwiazda Polarna and Am-Pol Eagle November 1990.

"Zofia A. Drzewieniecka, wzór Polskiej emigrantki." Gwiazda Polarna November 24, 1990.

### **Memberships**

American Association of University Professors

American Library Association

Friends of Lockwood Memorial Library, State University of New York at Buffalo, 1972-1973.

Kenmore Junior-Senior High School P.T.A. 1963-1964.

Polish Cultural Foundation, 1965-1990. Board member: 1974-1988.

Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences.

Polish Women's Alliance, 1950s-1990.