

June 19, 2012

Judge Jerzy Stępień
Director, Institute of Civic Space and Public Policy
Łazarski University
02-662 Warszawa
ul. Świeradowska 43
Poland

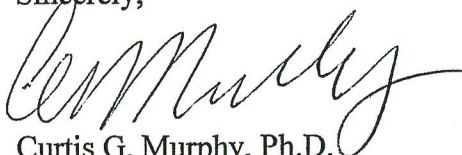
Dear Judge Stępień,

I write to express my appreciation and gratitude for the opportunity afforded me by the Institute of Civic Space and its sponsors to participate in the "Recovering Forgotten History" conference in May and June of this year. I joined the conference on 30 May in Krakow, and I took part in a number of discussions of texts relating to East Central Europe and Russia, including my own manuscript, "Progress without Consent: Enlightened Centralism vis-à-vis Local Self-Government in East Central Europe and Russia." The Polish experts leading the discussion of manuscripts were cordial, professional, and extremely knowledgeable, while the program of sight-seeing helped to reinforce (and, in some cases, create) a positive impression of Poland and East Central Europe in general. Many of my colleagues, who had never visited the region previously, expressed a candid desire to return and deepen their understanding of the area.

For myself, a young historian of East Central Europe, the conference served as an excellent opportunity to bridge the gap between U.S. and Polish traditions of scholarship. I am especially grateful to Professor Krzysztof Łazarski of Łazarski University and Professor Marcin Wodziński of the University of Wrocław, who thoroughly and systematically combed through my manuscript, offering numerous correctives and alternate points of view. As a result of our discussion, I intend to completely rework several chapters in my manuscript, as well as restate key points of my argument. Professor Wodziński, in particular, encouraged me to alter my treatment of Polish-Jewish relations in the pre-partition period and suggested a number of texts on the topic previously unknown to me. I hope that such exchanges will presage more sustained and fruitful cooperation between Polish and Anglophone academics, who often discuss the same subject without reference to one another.

Again, thank you for inviting me to participate in this year's conference, and I hope that my forthcoming book will in some measure testify to the importance of the "Recovering Forgotten History" project.

Sincerely,



Curtis G. Murphy, Ph.D.
University of Alaska Anchorage