

The goal of the Women of Krakow Trail is to help society remember these outstanding and courageous women. The tourist route dedicated to those women will imprint them on the urban fabric together with places associated with the emancipation movement, and emphasise the important role of women in the development of Krakow.

The route was created thanks to the cooperation of the Municipality of Krakow with the PTTK Central Mountain Tourism Centre, and with the substantive support of dr. hab. Agnieszka Chłosta-Sikorska, a professor at the University of the National Education Commission in Krakow. The route is part of the "Women of Krakow" project.

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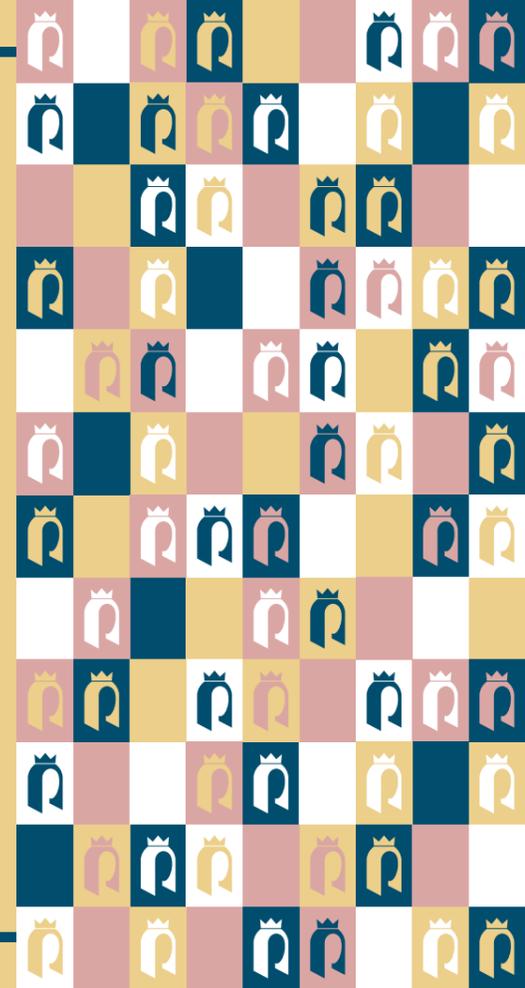
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CITY ROUTES KAZIMIERZ AND PODGÓRZE DISTRICT

THE WOMEN OF KRAKOW TRAIL



1



JANINA IPOHORSKA

(1914–1981)
– a Polish artist, painter, journalist and screenwriter. She created the *Przekrój* weekly newsmagazine together with Marian Eile, and also worked on set and costume design for many theatres. In *Przekrój* she went by the pseudonym Jan Kamyczek and worked to promote savoir-vivre.

2



JANINA KATZ

(1939–2013)
– Polish and Danish writer of Jewish origin. She published, among others, in *Miesięcznik Literacki* (*Literary Monthly*) and *Życie Literackie* (*Literary Life*), before emigrating to Denmark after the events of March 1968 and the anti-Semitic campaign. She worked together with Polish editorial boards, including *Kultura*, *Pulse*, *Znak* and *Odra*, and also wrote in Danish. She translated the works, among others, of Zbigniew Herbert, Wisława Szymborska, Czesław Miłosz, Tadeusz Różewicz and Sławomir Mrożek into Danish.

3



HELENA RUBINSTEIN

(1872–1965)
– one of the founders of the cosmetics industry for women, a businesswoman and marketing genius. Born in Podgórze, she lived in Kazimierz, from where she moved to Vienna, then to Australia, and eventually to London, Paris and New York. Her career started with selling and later manufacturing a moisturising cream, followed by other cosmetics for women – powders, perfumes and depilatory and makeup products. She was one of the richest women in the world, and also an art collector.

4



SARA SCHENIRER

(1883–1935)
– an education activist, a pioneer in educating Jewish girls. In 1917, she started a school for young Jewish girls in her apartment in Kazimierz, where she combined religious education with modern teaching methods. She also opened a two-year teaching seminary for Jewish female teachers to make sure that schools have qualified staff. This model of education, referred to as *Bais Yaakov* schools, spread in Poland, and, among others, in the United States, where some schools have been following this model until today.

5



ESTERKA

– a Jewish woman renowned for her beauty, the daughter of a respected merchant and a doctor. For a long time she was the flame of King Casimir the Great, and, as chronicler Jan Długosz claimed, gave the King two sons. Her intercession may have been what earned Jews in Poland the king's benevolent policies. Much of this information might have been called into question, or at least found to be uncertain, and it is not even entirely clear whether Esterka was a historical or merely legendary figure. Nonetheless, she made her mark in tradition and literature.

6



HELENA HUSARSKA

(1922–2009)
– an artist who, together with her husband Roman, created pyropicture – a decorative ceramic technique of applying liquid ceramic glaze to a surface heated to a high temperature. Together with her husband she also co-authored large-scale ceramic mosaics in Krakow and in Warsaw's Łazienki Park, the Museum of the Battle of Grunwald, and other Polish cities. Helena and Roman Husarski had their atelier in Przegorzały, and their works decorate, among others, the Korona hall and the Cracovia hotel.

7



HELENA RAKOCZY

(1921–2014)
– a gymnast, the Polish and world champion, and an Olympic medalist. She was a member of the following sports clubs in Krakow: Sokół, Korona and Wawel, and was awarded numerous medals in the 1950 world championships in Basel, a bronze medal in the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, and was the 26-time Polish champion, awarded the title of the best Polish athlete in 1950 voted by the readers of *Przegląd Sportowy*. After her competitive career ended, she became a coach in Poland and among Polish Americans in the United States, a social activist and an international class referee.

8



AGNIESZKA JAŁBRZYKOWSKA

(1818–1902)
– a teacher, an educator, and a supervisor at a private female boarding school in Podgórze, which was independent of Krakow until 1915. In 1887, she was bestowed the titles of Honorary Citizenship of the City of Podgórze for her contributions to education and the promotion of Polishness, becoming the first woman (and the only woman for almost a century) to receive this honour in Krakow. Only in 1991 was the next woman – Margaret Thatcher – welcomed as a Honorary Citizen.

9



"ALICJA" SCOUT PLATOON IN PODGÓRZE

A unit of underground Grey Ranks operating in Krakow, bringing together some 50 boys and 12 girls, and reporting to the KeDyw (Directorate of Sabotage) of the Krakow Division of the Home Army. The girls, commanded by Anna Surowiec (pseudonym "Żywia"), were mainly involved in covering operations, communications and intelligence. Pursued by investigators and betrayed by one of their own, the unit was eventually broken up by the Gestapo. From August 1943 to April 1944, more than 40 of its members were arrested and then tortured in Gestapo prisons, shot in public executions, or murdered in concentration camps.

10



MARIA WISŁOCKA

– owner of the villa that accommodated Lt. Antoni Stawarz, the officer who initiated the liberation of Krakow from the hands of the partitioners on 30 and 31 October 1918. Maria Wisłocka, her daughter Hanna, and her friends purchased white and red ribbons to sew them into bows for Polish conspirators preparing to take over military power in the city. These white and red cotillions pinned to Polish uniforms became the badges of the first soldiers of the reborn Independence.

11



ANNA FEUERSTEIN

(1891–1942)
– an educator, director of the Educational Institution for Jewish Orphans in Krakow, mother of the Kazimierz Jewish orphans. In October 1942, the German occupiers sent all the children from the institution to the Belzec extermination camp. Anna Feuerstein and her husband, an educator at the institution, decided to stay by the side of their charges and accompany them to the extermination camp and then to the gas chambers.

12



GUSTA DAWIDSON-DREANGER

(1917–c. 1943)
– pseudonym 'Justyna', she was a Polish activist of Jewish origin, a member of the Akiba Zionist movement, a fighter in the Jewish Combat Organisation, and an author of one of the first documents on the Holocaust – *Justyna's Diary*. She voluntarily surrendered to the Gestapo when her husband Shimshon was arrested in January 1943, and through smuggled messages, they agreed to attempt an escape. They managed to do so in April, and they both went into hiding near Bochnia. However, in November 1943 they were both arrested and murdered.

TRAIL OF WOMEN THROUGH THE KAZIMIERZ AND PODGÓRZE DISTRICT

WOMEN HAVE ALWAYS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF KRAKOW. IF NOT FOR THEIR HARD WORK, PASSION AND PERSEVERANCE, THE CITY WOULD HAVE A COMPLETELY INCOMPARABLE NATURE AND APPEARANCE. WOMEN ARE AMONG THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE HISTORY OF THIS UNIQUE PLACE AND CODETERMINE ITS DEVELOPMENT, BOTH IN TURBULENT MOMENTS AND DURING TIMES OF PEACE. THE WOMEN OF KRAKOW ARE PASSIONATE AND EXUBERATE ENERGY, WHICH IS WHAT GAVE THIS EXTRAORDINARY CITY A UNIQUE ATMOSPHERE. STROLL THROUGH KAZIMIERZ AND THE OLD PODGÓRZE TO LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY (OR HERSTORY) OF THE WOMEN OF KRAKOW.

1 JANINA IPOHORSKA

A block of flats at 4 Michala Siedleckiego Street, not far from the Market Hall, was the home of Jadwiga Ipohorska, the editor of *Przekrój*, who wrote books under the pseudonym Jan Kamyczek: *Grzeczność na co dzień (Politeness in Everyday Life)*, *Jak oni mają się ubierać? (What should they wear?)* and *Savoir-vivre dla nastolków (Savoir-vivre for adolescents)*, which were a source of knowledge for several generations of Poles learning the rules of politeness in company and at the table.

Along your route: Janina Ipohorska Square – In 2022, the city authorities honoured the distinguished Cracovian by naming a square near where she lived after her.

2 JANINA KATZ

Janina Katz, a writer, lived at 57 Starowiślna Street, until the anti-Semitic campaign of 1968 forced her to leave for Denmark, with Krakow losing a talented writer and poet. Fortunately, she did not harbour a grudge against Polish literature. Although she wrote in the language of her new homeland, she also translated a number of works by contemporary Polish poets and writers into Danish.

3 HELENA RUBINSTEIN

The tenement house at 2 Bartosza Street is one of many places in Krakow associated with the “Queen of Beauty”. However, her business acumen reached well beyond her hometown, to cosmopolitan cities of the West – Paris, London and New York. The braided letters HR, which symbolise her brand, are well recognised, and the green flacon has become a symbol of luxury. Helena Rubinstein enabled many generations of women to enhance or preserve their beauty, earning her spectacular success.

Along your route: on the way to the Bais Yaakov School, at Józefa Street, you will pass a mural of those who left their mark on Kazimierz, among others Helena Rubinstein and Esterka. This project was completed as part of the 2014 Civic Budget.

4 SARA SCHENIRER

Sara Schenirer might have died before World War II, but her life's work, education of Jewish girls, continues to this day, among others in Israel, the United States and Great Britain. The first Bais Yaakov school was opened in Sarah Schenirer's apartment at 1 Katarzyny Street, where prior to that she ran a tailor shop. The school offered religious courses and also practical life training.

5 ESTERKA

Esterka's house at 46 Krakowska Street now houses a branch of the nearby Ethnographic Museum, where visitors can experience interesting temporary exhibitions, while in the 1950s and 1960s, it also housed the “Esterka” coffee bar. It is one of several places in Krakow commemorating the famous flame of the King by name. In Kazimierz, you will find Estery Street, while the Esterka mound used to be in Łobzów, now home to the KS Wawel sports club. The royal romance was also rumoured to have blossomed, among others, in Niepołomice, Czchów, Sandomierz, Skawina, Radom and Rzeszów.

6 HELENA HUSARSKA

The facade of the KS Korona sports club building at 9 Kalwaryjska Street is decorated with glazed mosaics in pyro-pylope technique depicting “Horsemen” and “Runners” by Helena and Roman Husarski. Other works by the married couple, who highly contributed to the Polish artistic ceramics, include the “City” works on the former Cracovia Hotel and on the facade of the church at Zaskale Street. In 2023, the city authorities honoured the artists by naming one of the green squares in Przegorzalę after them.

7 HELENA RAKOCZY

The building used by the Korona Sports Club is located on the Niepodległości square, on the site of the former barracks, which were taken over on 31 October 1918 by Polish soldiers led by Lt. Antoni Stawarz, from where they set off towards the bridge to liberate Krakow. Helena Rakoczy was a player at this club in 1946-1947. Before she began sports training in Korona, she helped to clean the gymnasium, which the Germans had turned into a horse-riding arena. This talented Krakow gymnast won a bronze medal at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne and a total of 108 medals at world and Polish championships.

8 AGNIESZKA JAŁBRZYKOWSKA

When you are at the Niepodległości square, head towards the stairs to the park named after Wojciech Bednarski, where you will find a mural on the building at 6 Jana Zamoyskiego Street. It features 5 images of those who made their contribution to Krakow, including the first Honorary Citizen of the City of Podgórze of 1887. Thus, after the two cities merged in 1915, Agnieszka Jałbrzykowska was the first in this group of women in Krakow, until 1991, meaning that her honours surpassed other women, such as Margaret Thatcher, Wisława Szymborska, or Olga Tokarczuk.

9 “ALICJA” GIRLS' PLATOON TEAM

The monument at the Church of St. Joseph commemorates the murdered members of a unit of the Grey Ranks Assault Groups, including female scouts, who were a part of the Krakow-based KeDyw (Directorate of Sabotage) of the Home Army in 1943. More than 40 young people were arrested, and only two of them survived the war: Janina Potoczek “Telimena” and Stanisław Pławcki “Sulibor”.

10 MARIA AND HANIA WISŁOCKA

The villa at 3 Lasoty square witnessed an event that made history, and was recalled by all participants of the liberation of the city on 31 October 1918. It was its owner Maria Wisłocka, her daughters and their friends who, on the eve of the operation, sewed bows in the national colours. These were then, as remembered by almost all eyewitnesses, worn on the uniforms of the Polish soldiers liberating Krakow.

The colourful staircase at Tatrzańska Street created by Agnieszka Rola and Monika Pasek are one of the attractions of Krakow. In 2021, their colours were refreshed and the stairs were decorated with 32 quotes from authors associated with Krakow, including Wisława Szymborska, Zuzanna Ginczanka, Zbigniew Wodecki, Stanisław Lem, Sławomir Mrożek, Jerzy Pilch, Czesław Miłosz and Stanisław Wyspiański.

11 ANNA FEUERSTEIN

The last location of the last orphanage in the Krakow ghetto, managed by Anna Feuerstein, was at 41 Józefińska Street. The orphans had to work to make a living in the ghetto – the younger ones glued envelopes or assembled brushes, while the older girls helped in the epidemiological hospital. On 28 October 1942, the Germans closed the institution. The children and the staff who did not want to leave the wards were gathered at Zgody square (now Bohaterów Getta square), and then transported to Płaszów, and finally to the Belzec extermination camp. Anna Feuerstein was with them until the very end, when they died together.

12 GUSTA DAWIDSON-DRAENGER

At Bohaterów Getta square, on the facade of the building facing Piwna Street, and on the pavilion at No. 10, there are two plaques commemorating the Jewish Combat Organisation. The Jewish fighter Gusta Dawidson-Draenger, pseudonym “Justyna”, who was one of its members, voluntarily allowed herself to be arrested twice by the Gestapo in order to be with her fiancé, and later her husband. Together, they successfully escaped the Germans twice. She was an active fighter of the Jewish Combat Organisation, and even imprisoned in the women's prison on Helclów Street. She wrote her *Justyna's Memoirs* on scraps of toilet paper, which were published after the war.

