Poles and Polish Diaspora in Latin America: past and present

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The Emigration Museum in Gdynia has the honour to invite you to an international scientific conference on the Polish presence in Latin America. With this event, we want to start a series of scientific gatherings on the history of emigration from the Polish lands and the Polish communities which function in various parts of the world. We hope that through such actions and the research we conduct as well as our publishing projects, the Museum will become a significant exchange platform for ideas and experience of the units, whose research work is focused on the problems of emigration and Polish diaspora.

The Polish have an important position in the migration history of Europe and the world. Since the early days of the Polish state, our natives have left the country temporarily or permanently, for various reasons. It was caused by the complicated political history of the Polish nation and the often difficult socio-economic situation. As a consequence, the presence of Poles is now noticeable on every continent. Latin America has an important position among the lands, which have accepted a significant number of Polish emigrants. First, the Polish had little contact with that part of the world and it was rather incidental. However, after some time, as the migration processes were developing, coherent Polish communities formed there. The Polish diaspora and Poles became an important part of the social and cultural life of Latin America. The goal of the conference is to provide an opportunity for researches who specialise in the subjects connected with the Latin America Polish diaspora to meet, exchange views and take part in an interdisciplinary debate. Though we pay attention to the historic aspects of the Polish presence in this part of the world, we also want to focus on showing the image of Polish diaspora in Latin America today.

Therefore, we would like to emphasize the following questions during the conference:

- current and historic place of Poles and Polish Diaspora in the societies of Latin American countries;
- the Polish input into the political, social, cultural and scientific life of Latin American countries;
- the history of Polish emigration to Latin America;
- forming of the Polish diaspora communities in Latin America as well as political and cultural interest in this phenomenon;
- the forming and changes of Polish identity in Latin America;

- the image of Poles and Polish diaspora in the Polish diaspora press, journals and diary literature as well as bellettristic literature and literary reportages;

- the image of Poles and Polish Diaspora according to the information of diplomatic and consular representations;

- the relations between Poland and the Latin American Polish Diaspora;

- the activity of Polish diaspora organisations and Polish clergy among the members of Latin American Polish diaspora;

- the literary and cultural activity of Poles and Polish diaspora in Latin America;

- the research of Polish scholars in Latin America and their connections to Polish diaspora societies.

However, the above list is not complete, when it comes to the issues, which may be presented at the conference.

The conference is of an interdisciplinary character. The organisers' idea is to gather specialists who deal with the issues of Poles and Polish diaspora in Latin America from various perspectives: historians, political scientists, culture experts, Ibero-American and Latin American studies experts, cultural anthropologists, philologists, etc.

The conference will be summarised with a reviewed printed publication in Polish.

Languages of the conference: Polish / Spanish / Portuguese

Applications:

Please send the form, which has been attached to the invitation by 17th June 2016 to:

r.raczynski@muzeumemigracji.pl

The information on the acceptance of a paper will be sent by 1st July 2016.

The conference is free of charge for its participants. The organisers provide the foreign participants with accommodation (26th-27th, 27th-28th and 28th-29th October), full board and print together with a possibility of translation of a text as a part of the post-conference publication (upon the reception of a positive review).

NOTICE: The number of participants is limited. The final choice of applications qualified for participation in the conference will be made by the Scientific Committee of the Conference, based on the abstracts of papers which are sent in.

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