



The late Dr Bednarowski

Dr Wladyslaw Bednarowski, a Pole, studied Philosophy in the Jagiellonian University in Krakow prior to the outbreak of the Second World War. He escaped with the Polish Army at the start of the War, eventually arriving in Britain. At the end of the War, he obtained a post as Lecturer in the Aberdeen University Logic Department (subsequently merged into the Philosophy Department, which is now part of the School of History, Divinity and Philosophy). He remained there, teaching and pursuing research, in due course being promoted to a Readership, and ultimately retiring in 1975. He continued to live in Aberdeen until his death in November 2002, aged 94.

The W. Bednarowski Trust

Having visited Poland several times in his later years, Dr Bednarowski recognised the value for Polish academics of being able to visit a British University, and formed the idea of providing money for this purpose. His idea was welcomed by members of the Aberdeen University Philosophy Department, and the Trust was instituted in 1999 by a small group, with money given by him.

The primary purposes of the Trust, which is recognised as a charity, are: to advance education by facilitating contacts for Polish academics, particularly in Philosophy and particularly between the Jagiellonian University of Krakow and the University of Aberdeen, by the provision of support for Polish academics visiting Scotland for the purposes of study and research; and to support the activities of other bodies which are seeking to advance the education of Polish academics.

The Trust's main activity was initially to offer short visiting research fellowships, open to application from members of staff of the Jagiellonian University, enabling up to three individuals each year to visit Aberdeen. The scheme was later widened to allow the possibility of visits by academics in other Polish universities and in some other cognate disciplines, and, and of visits to other Scottish Universities. By Summer 2018 the scheme had brought over 40 Fellows to Scotland. It has been funding fellowships now for 20 years. After the pandemic some of the Fellows appointed to come in 2020 are coming in the spring of 2022, and it is hoped that others will be appointed to come in 2023.

The purpose of this scheme is to provide to Polish academics an opportunity to learn more about Philosophy in the English-speaking world, and to make contact with colleagues in their discipline (possibly with a view to subsequent collaboration). It is hoped that there will also be a benefit for the host department and its members.

The Trust has *also* offered support for Polish philosophers to attend the major annual UK philosophical conference, the 'Joint Session', when it met in Aberdeen (2008) and in Stirling (2012). The Trust organised jointly with the University of Warsaw a Scottish-Polish Conference on Epistemology and Political Philosophy, held in Warsaw in September 2013, bringing together philosophers from Scottish and Polish universities.

Fellowship visits

Visits are normally for six weeks, but may be extended if appropriate. Fellows coming to Aberdeen are given support towards their travel costs, free accommodation and a weekly stipend to cover basic living costs; they have access to the University Library, space for study and access to a computer; they may also receive some support for travel to other institutions. Similar arrangements obtain for visitors to other Scottish universities.

Applications

Applications for the visiting research fellowships are invited during each calendar year, for visits in the following academic Session (mid-September/October – mid-June). Applications are considered and awards made by a Selection Committee in May (see below).

Trustees:

(All Trustees are members of the Selection Committee)

Professor J. R. Cameron *(Trust Treasurer)*

Professor Jan Deregowski, FRSE *(Trust Chairman)*

Dr Nigel Dower *(Trust Secretary)*

Professor Beth Lord

Dr Helen Lynch

Address of the Trust:

The W. Bednarowski Trust,
c/o Department of Philosophy,
University of Aberdeen,
King's College,
Old Aberdeen, AB24 3DS,
Scotland, UK.

Secretary to the Trust:

Dr Nigel Dower,
Department of Philosophy,
University of Aberdeen,
King's College,
Old Aberdeen, AB24 3DS,
Scotland, UK.
(email: n.dower@abdn.ac.uk)

The Trust has a website at: www.bednarowskitrust.org.

(Explanation of the Trust's logo: Dr Bednarowski was an enthusiastic painter, and this design is based on the symbol he used as a signature on his paintings.)



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