

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)*

| PROJECT | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Project name and acronym: | Rescue Memory - Activism, Arts and Public Remembrance – ReActMem |
| Participant: | Fundacja Brama Cukermana (Brama) |
| PIC number: | 881729516 |

| EVENT DESCRIPTION | |
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| Event number: | WP5 |
| Event name: | Commemorative intervention 1: ‘Stanisław Wygodzki. Memories of a writer from Będzin’ |
| Type: | Festival and conference |
| In situ/online: | in-situ |
| Location: | Poland, Będzin |
| Date(s): | 14.09.2024, 15.09.2024 |
| Website(s) (if any): | https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/wydarzenia/ |
| Participants | |
| Female: | 39 |
| Male: | 20 |
| Non-binary: | 0 |
| From country 1 [Poland] | 58 |
| From country 2 [France]: | 1 |
| Total number of participants: | 59 |
| From total number of countries: | 2 |
| Description | |
| <i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i> | |
| The event (conference and festival) “ <i>Stanisław Wygodzki. Memories of a writer from Będzin</i> ” was organized around the figure of Stanisław Wygodzki, a Jewish writer from Będzin, a tragic figure, who is almost completely forgotten by his compatriots. | |

The aim of the event was twofold: (1) to familiarize the audience with the writer, to promote his work and to reintroduce it to the readers, and (2) to test different types of commemoration of important figures in the small, local environment.

The event was organized together with a teacher from Będzin - Izabela Tumas-Matuszewska, who has been promoting knowledge about the writer and who runs a fanpage dedicated to the writer: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077351679037>

The entire event was part of the broader context of the project being implemented, as well as the foundation's activities, around the memory and education of the local community, discussions on new methods, strategies of working on memory, as well as narratives about the past, that now need a new narrative and research.

The organizers wanted to show a broader historical context through the prism of the fate of an individual connected with a place, but also to try to fight for the memory of the forgotten author and to discuss the forms of his commemoration. Therefore, the project was dedicated to residents and all interested parties who could jointly consider the need to commemorate forgotten people by promoting their work, artistic events (poetry reading) or the concept of cooperation with local artists to promote their art by building local events around memory (collaboration with a painter from Będzin - Tomasz Motłoch, who shared his painting "Wzgórze" for the purposes of promoting the project). Such projects involve local people, support the building of a social community and the integration of residents. It is very much needed in a post-industrial place like Będzin, with an unprocessed Jewish history that affects the atmosphere and awareness of the place today.

The target group of the event we reached were residents of Będzin and the region (Silesian Voivodeship), local decision makers, teachers, high school students, and everyone interested in literature, the history of the city and Jewish history. Outstanding scientists and experts on creativity of Wygodzki work were invited to the event. It was an absolutely unique event commemorating the work of one of the most important Jewish writers and poets in post-war Poland.

PROGRAM:

"Stanisław Wygodzki. Memories of a writer from Będzin"

September 14-15, 2024, Saturday-Sunday, Będzin, Poland

Stanisław Wygodzki wrote a moving reflection about his hometown:

The view was vast. Before us lay a city, the most beautiful city in the world, the first and last city of my life.
(“In the valley”, 1949)

These words have great power for us, as they prove the author's attitude towards his birthplace, his sentiment and fascination. Wygodzki has been returning to Będzin in his works – the town was both a place of joy and hell to him. The amount of authors' works, mentions of Będzin and finally the biography of the author give us plenty of opportunities for commemoration of this figure.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

September 14, 2024, Cukierman Family Prayer House, Al. Kołłątaja 24/28

***11.00 "From Pajęczno to Będzin. Stanisław Wygodzki's pedigree"**

Lecture by Andrzej Ciepał

Andrzej Ciepał - retired teacher, MA in geography, hobby genealogist and regionalist.

The lecture was centered around the biography of Stanisław Wygodzki, with emphasis on local genealogy and in the context of the history of Jews from Będzin. Its aim was to recall the writer's fate, but also to show, through the lenses of an individual, the local contexts of the Holocaust and its impact on the people, place, change and memory of the past.

***12.30 – second breakfast at the Gate (refreshments for event participants)**

***2.00 p.m "Będzin – Wygodzki's first and last city"**

Izabela Tumas-Matuszewska's trip, meeting: Plac 3 Maja

Izabela Tumas-Matuszewska – by passion and profession: librarian, graduate of the University of Silesia.

Izabela Tumas-Matuszewska presented the places where Stanisław Wygodzki lived and was staying. We learned about the topography of the city along with the commemoration of places important to the writer in the

context of memory and oblivion. Finally, a plaque mounted on the building where the author lived until the fall of 1943 (when the Jews were deported to the ghetto) was unveiled. The plaque is the first commemoration of this most important writer, a Jew, from Będzin. The ceremony was also an opportunity to discuss the commemoration of important people, including Jews who made outstanding contributions to smaller towns.

September 15, 2024, The Będzin Ghetto Fighters' Memorial, ul. Rutki Laskier 24

***16.00 "Let these events not be written about without me, about the fact that I was there, maybe someone will remember (...)" – a conversation about the work of Stanisław Wygodzki with the participation of Dr. Karolina Koprowska, Dr. Jakub Kornhauser, prof. Marta Tomczok and Mirosław Skrzypczyk**

Moderation: Mirosław Skrzypczyk

Moderated talk with specialists - scientists, writers - regarding the work of Stanisław Wygodzki, his influence on us today and his memory was conducted. The topic of an analysis of his work in the context of memory and education was touched, as well as using Wygodzki as an educational tool for the youth. Researchers of his works, who still have a lot of work to do in the context of restoring the memory of the writer, were given the opportunity to contribute to the discussion.

Speakers:

Mirosław Skrzypczyk - Polish language teacher at the School Complex in Szczekociny, pedagogue and cultural animator. President of the Lelowski Historical and Cultural Society.

Dr. Karolina Koprowska – literary, cultural and Yiddish scholar. She defended her doctoral dissertation at the Faculty of Polish Studies of the Jagiellonian University. She works at the Institute of Jewish Studies of the Jagiellonian University as an assistant professor in the Department of the History of Judaism and Jewish Literature. Author of the books.

prof. Marta Tomczok - researcher of Holocaust literature, coal cultures and heavy industry, environmental humanist. Author of books including biographies of Irit Amiel and Leo Lipski. In cooperation with Piotr Mitzner, she prepared an edition of Krystiana Robb-Narbutt's poems and prose.

***18.00 "Biographer of silence and pogrom" – reading the poetry of Stanisław Wygodzki**

Read by Dr. Jakub Kornhauser - a poet, essayist, translator, literary expert, researcher at the Jagiellonian University. Author of seven volumes of poetry

The reading of Stanisław Wygodzki's poetry by the poet Jakub Kornhauser gave the participants a look at artistic and symbolic dimensions. The reading took place at the former ghetto area in Będzin, which only added another important dimension of commemoration.

A visible and permanent result of the event is a plaque (in Polish and English) commemorating Stanisław Wygodzki that was attached to the building where he lived until he was deported to the Będzin ghetto. The plaque and the ceremony was possible thanks to the cooperation with the Będzin city hall.

websites:

<https://www.bramacukermana.com/new/stanislaw-wygodzki-memories-of-a-writer-from-bedzin/>

<https://www.bramacukermana.com/new/4056-2/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/485338907457595/>

| HISTORY OF CHANGES | | |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| VERSION | PUBLICATION DATE | CHANGE |
| 1.0 | 01.04.2022 | Initial version (new MFF). |
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