

## **When I Met Aleksander Guterch**

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I first met Aleksander Guterch at the beginning of the POLONAISE Experiment in 1997. I had arrived in Warsaw several days before the rest of U.S. contingent and briefly met with Aleksander to discuss plans for the upcoming experiment. He had learned that my ancestors had emigrated from the Gdańsk region in the 19th century and thoughtfully decided that a good place for me to recover from jet lag was Gdańsk. After a night at the Academy of Sciences he put me on a train to Gdańsk. Gdańsk was interesting in itself, but more interesting to me was that I was able to locate the grave of my great-great-grandmother.

Later during the POLONAISE'97 Experiment Aleksander and his wife took me to the Old Town area of Warsaw pointing out all of the buildings destroyed in WWII that had been meticulously rebuilt from original plans. They also introduced me to the tradition of drinking hot tea from glasses (you need to lift the glass by its rim). I also worked with Aleksander during the CELEBRATION 2000 Experiment as well as an experiment SUDETES 2003.

Received 19 July 2024

Accepted 5 September 2024