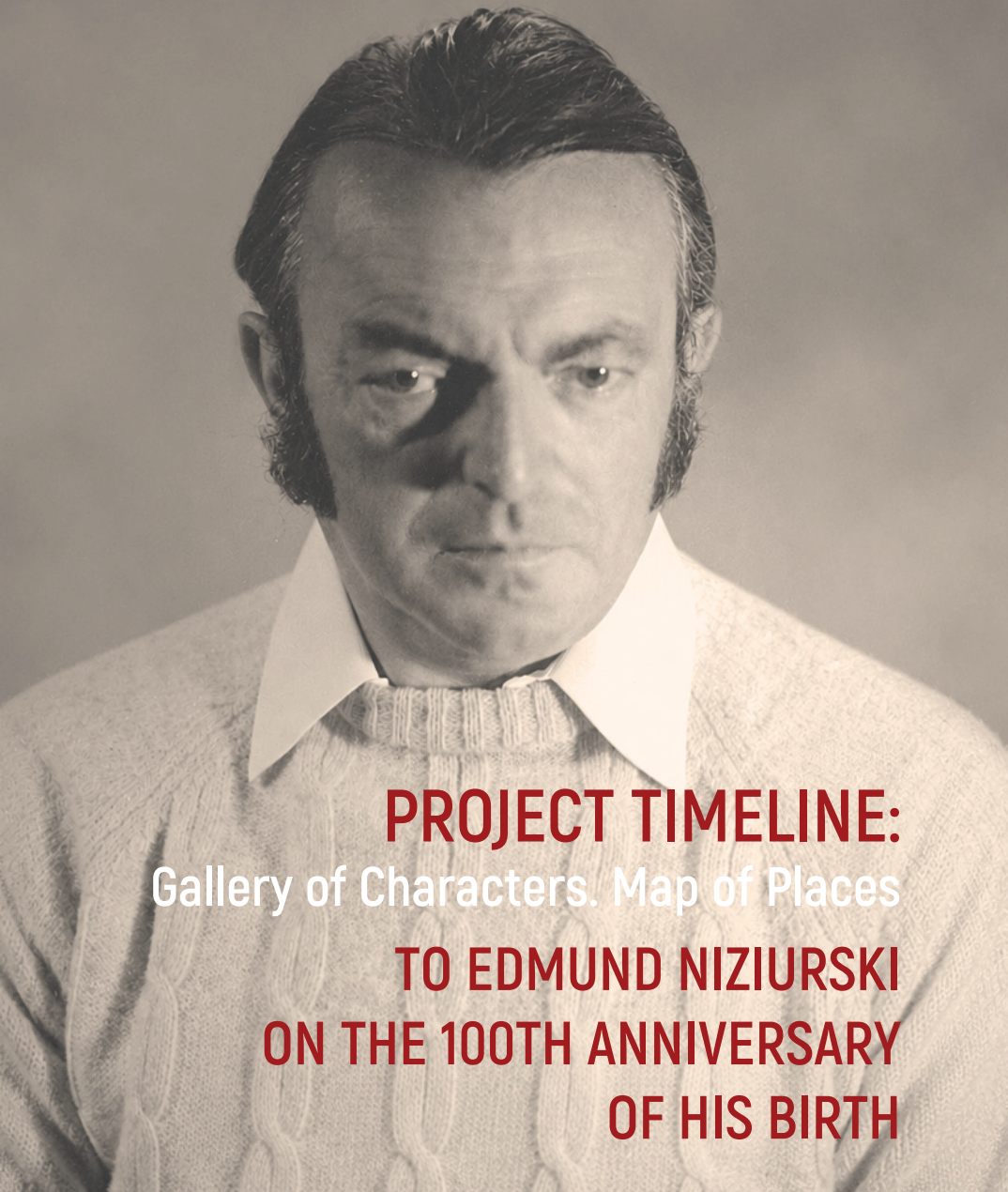
ILLUSTRATED INFORMATION BULLETIN



PROJECT TIMELINE:

Gallery of Characters. Map of Places

TO EDMUND NIZIURSKI ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH

Illustrated Information
Bulletin

PROJECT TIMELINE

Gallery of Characters.
Map of Places.
To Edmund Niziurski on the 100th
Anniversary of his Birth

Illustrated Information Bulletin

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Gallery of Characters. Map of Places. To Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary of his Birth



GALLERY OF CHARACTERS. Map of Places.
Dedicated to Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary of His Birth"
is co-financed by state budget funds, granted by the Minister of Science under the "Excellent Science II

Ministerstwo Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego
Uniwersytet Jana Kochanowskiego w Kielcach
2025 rokiem EDMUNDA NIZIURSKIEGO w Kielcach

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The project titled "Gallery of Characters. Map of Places.
Dedicated to Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary of His Birth"
is co-financed by state budget funds, granted by the Minister of Science
under the "Excellent Science II" (Support for scientific conferences)

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Part 1

FOCUS

OVERVIEW OF KEY PROJECT STAGES (TASKS)

JUNE 2024 – Submission of an application to the Ministry of Science and Higher Education in Warsaw by the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce (Excellent Science II Programme. Support for Scientific Conferences)

NOVEMBER 2024 – System notification regarding application approval

DECEMBER 2024 – Signing of the agreement (total project value: PLN 111,950; funds allocated by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education: PLN 96,950)

NOVEMBER to DECEMBER 2024 – collaboration, academic patronage

- **November 25th – Partnership established with the Jerzy Pilch Municipal Public Library in Kielce and the Museum of Toys and Play in Kielce**, followed by establishment of a working relationship with local authorities (Kielce City Council, Piekoszów Town and Municipal Council, Chęciny Town and Municipal Council) and other organisations.



A meeting at the Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics (ILSL) at the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce on partnerships with cultural institutions (including representatives of the Jerzy Pilch Municipal Public Library (MPL) in Kielce, and the Museum of Toys and Play (MTP) in Kielce, and the ILSL). *Photo from project archive*

- Conference granted academic patronage from the Centre for Research on Children's and Young Adult Literature and Culture of the National Education Commission, Kraków (UKEN), and the Institute of Journalism and International Relations at the University of

the National Education Commission, Kraków (UKEN).

- Joint initiative and efforts to declare the Year of Edmund Niziurski in Kielce.



Photo from project archive

- **December 9th** – Another meeting with representatives of the MPL in Kielce and MTP in Kielce; consultations and sharing of ideas and inspirations at the ILSL on the principles of the partnership between the participating scientific and cultural institutions (the ILSL, MPL, MTP); discussion of projects with common aspects: a project co-funded from the state budget, allocated by the Minister of Science under the Excellent Science II Programme. Support for Scientific Conferences (*Gallery of Characters. Map of Places. To Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary of his Birth*); two projects co-funded by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage: (1) *Nie tylko dla urwisów. Światy Edmunda Niziurskiego* [Not Just for Rascals – The Worlds of Edmund Niziurski] (the Museum of Toys and Play in Kielce), (2) *Siódme wtajemniczenie, czyli sposób na Niziurskiego* [The Seventh Initiation, or the Trick for Niziurski] (the J. Pilch Municipal Public Library in Kielce).



FEBRUARY 2025 – launch of the Year of Edmund Niziurski and announcement of a conference

- **February 13th** – Ceremonial session of the Kielce City Council, during which councillors unanimously adopted a resolution designating 2025 as the Year of Edmund Niziurski in Kielce, marking a symbolic and momentous start to the anniversary celebrations.
- **February 14th** – 90th anniversary of the birth of Prof. Jan Pacławski.

MARCH 2025 – education, humour, and creativity

- **March 10th** – Press conference at the Museum of Toys and Play in Kielce to mark the Year of Edmund Niziurski; attendees included Agata Wojda (Mayor of Kielce), Beata Wojciechowska, Prof. Ph.D. (Vice-Chancellor of the Jan Kochanowski University), Dr Ilona Daria Dyktyńska (Director of the MTP) and Anna Żmudzińska (Director of the MPL).



Photo from project archive (website)

- **March 10th** – Official announcement of the 1st National Literary and Art Competition, entitled *The Secrets of Mr N.* The results will be announced in June.
- **March 10th** – Announcement of the *Edmund Niziurski in Comics* competition (Jerzy Pilch Municipal Public Library in Kielce).
- **March 11th** – Initiatives at the Heroes of the January Uprising Primary School in Zajączków inspired by the project, including the XXXIII Language Culture Week, which consisted of in-class meetings on the writer's ties to the school; a presentation of letters written by Edmund Niziurski in 1988 and 1989 addressed to the school's Polish Language Club; a quiz on the *Tajemnica dzikiego szybu film*; *In the Footsteps of the Rascals – a Walking Trek up Mount Miedzianka*, and the *Portrait of Niziurski the Rascal* art and literature competition).
- **March 10th - 14th** – Events organised by the Jerzy Pilch Municipal Public Library as part of the XXXIII Language Culture Week
  - http://mbp.kielce.pl/media/aktualnosci/2020/06/XXXIII_Tydzie%C5%84_Kultury_J%C4%99zyka_w_MBP_im._J._Pilcha_w_Kielcach.pdf
  - https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=939328455076201&set=a.469611895381195
- **March 12th** – Humour workshops ('Torbogogi') – workshop sessions for primary school pupils from the Complex of Integrative Educational Facilities in Micigoźd and the John Paul II Primary School in Sobków as part of the XXXIII Language Culture Week, inspired by the characters and humorous world of Niziurski's prose.
- **March 13th** – Lecture by Dr Monika Bator (of the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce) entitled *Edmund Niziurski on the big and small screen – humour in selected adaptations of the writer's works* at the Gustaw Herling-Grudziński Provincial Pedagogical Library in Kielce
  - https://radiokielce.pl/1278911/z-kart-powiesci-na-maly-i-duzy-ekran-humor-edmunda-niziurskiego-nie-starzeje-sie/

APRIL 2025 – workshops, meetings and walks with multisensory elements

- https://www.facebook.com/rokedmundaniziurskiegowkielcach/posts/pfbid09xYJ13jZNNxRZZDZScujDHneZr54jsjeoLZQQFJG1vsJGUhN33Ur3mJiZjyprFxtl
- **April 23rd** – Creative workshops, during which primary school pupils designed

sensory bookmarks, book covers, and exercise books inspired by Niziurski's characters and books (on International Book and Copyright Day), including the *Sensory Edmuinspirations* workshops, which focused on book covers, exercise books, and bookmarks. The sessions were attended by primary school pupils from the Edmund Niziurski Primary School in Słopiec, the Heroes of the January Uprising Primary School in Zajączków, the Complex of Educational Integration Facilities in Micigoźd, and the John Paul II Primary School in Sobków;

- **April 23rd** – MPL workshops: *How a book is made*.

› https://www.facebook.com/reel/1359572498649802

- **April 24th – Debate: Teachers, Failing Grades and Other 'Bombs': Language in Niziurski's Writing** (Poczytalnia na dVoRcu / an initiative of the Jerzy Pilch Municipal Public Library in Kielce).

Debate participants:

- Krzysztof Varga – writer, columnist, author of the biography of Edmund Niziurski *Księga dla starych urwisów* and other books, winner of numerous literary awards;
- Piotr Zbróg, Prof. Ph.D. – linguist, director of the Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics at Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, an expert in the field of communication and language culture;
- Dr Ilona Daria Dyktyńska – Director of the Museum of Toys and Play, and a specialist in modern history;
- Karolina Wilczyńska – a writer from Kielce, one of the most popular authors of contemporary fiction, and winner of the City of Kielce Award;
- Members of Edmund Niziurski's family – Anna Niziurska-Włodarska and Agnieszka Niziurska.

Funding was provided by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, from the Fund for the Promotion of Culture and the City of Kielce.

- **April 25th** – Staff, students, and alumni of the Jan Kochanowski University (JKU) took part in the celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the naming of the Primary School in Słopiec after Edmund Niziurski. Participants included Marta Bolińska, Ph.D., a JKU Professor, and Rozalia Urbanik, B.A. The event included a meeting with the Niziurski family and others.



A meeting with Edmund Niziurski's family at the Edmund Niziurski Primary School in Słopiec. *Photo from project archive (website)*



A memento presented to the ILSL by the E. Niziurski Primary School in Słopiec. *Photo from project archive (website)*

JUNE 2025 – National Academic Conference and accompanying events



- **June 3rd - 4th** – The Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics (ILSL) at the Jan Kochanowski University held a National Academic Conference entitled *Gallery of Characters. Map of Places. To Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary of his Birth*. This was the project's most significant academic event, combining scholarly reflection on literature with a presentation of new interpretative and research perspectives.

KEY EVENTS OF THE CONFERENCE

- Celebration of the 90th anniversary of the birth of Prof. Jan Pacławski, a literary scholar and the pioneer of research into Niziurski's work.



Professor Jan Pacławski's Jubilee (June 3rd, 2025; Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics, Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce). *Photo from project archive (website)*

LECTURES, DEBATES AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Conference programme



The panel discussions were centred on issues such as *Prose for young people: themes, contexts, challenges. Historical, literary and cultural aspects of Edmund Niziurski's work*, and '*How should we study contemporary cultural texts and phenomena?*

The following issues were discussed at the four sessions: 'Places and surroundings', 'Characters and values', 'History and culture – translations and examples', and 'A different perspective: texts and contexts'.

- **June 3rd – panel discussion (hybrid)** featuring Dorota Heck, Prof. Ph.D.; Katarzyna Drąg, Ph.D., UPJPII Professor; Anna Tryksza, Ph.D., and Agnieszka Miernik, Ph.D., JKU Professor (online). The discussion was moderated by Zbigniew Trzaskowski, Ph.D., JKU Professor.



Photo from project archive

Other important events:

- Ceremonial naming of Room 285 at the Edmund Niziurski Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics, featuring Prof. Jan Pacławski.



Photo from project archive (website)

- Opening of an exhibition of Niziurski's books, showcasing various editions and covers, as well as the works of the winners of *The Secrets of Mr N.* competition.
- Announcement of the results of *The Secrets of Mr N.* 1st National Literary and Art Competition, with presentation of prizes to the winners and an exhibition of the entries.
- Literary and art workshops for the competition winners, which were designed to develop their creative skills and enhance their sensory experiences.
- A quiz, organised by Agnieszka Dolecka, MA, which was designed to engage conference participants.
- The *Niziurski for the road* memory exchange – a space for personal reflections by readers and academics.
- Interviews on Radio Fraszka with Prof. Jan Pacławski, Ph.D., Anna Wzorek, JKU Professor, and Arkadiusz Luboń, Ph.D. Rzeszów University Professor.

June 2025 – Publication of an article by Marta Bolińska, Ph.D., JKU Professor, entitled *Rok Niziurskiego w Kielcach* [The Year of Niziurski in Kielce], Nowy Głos Akademicki 2025, no. 2, pp. 48–49.


ROK EDMUNDA NIZIURSKIEGO W KIELCACH

Photo from project archive (website)

JULY 2025 – the 100th anniversary of the writer's birth

- **July 20th** – Profile of Edmund Niziurski written by Marta Bolińska, Ph.D. and published on the *Dla Polonii* website, increasing the project's international impact.
  - https://www.polacywewloszech.com/2025/07/16/prof-marta-bolinska-splot-powagi-z-lekkoscia-piora-edmund-niziurski-w-setna-rocznice-urodzin/
  - https://polishexpress.au/splot-powagi-z-lekkoscia-piora-edmund-niziurski-w-setna-rocznice-urodzin/
  - https://dlapolonii.pl/prof-marta-bolinska-splot-powagi-z-lekkoscia-piora-edmund-niziurski-w-setna-rocznice-urodzin/
- **July 11th** – Opening of the *Not Just for Rascals – the Worlds of Edmund Niziurski* exhibition at the Museum of Toys and Play.
  - https://www.facebook.com/rokedmundaniziurskiegowkielcach/posts/pfbid029Wz1XAb2rpZ4b54bDnjjixQg1V7bm7sRDoPcEV5m6mv2ttJL5GX6VN6QWD82fNHAl

AUGUST 2025 – open-air cinema

- **August 16th** – *Backyard Cinema* – a screening of the TV series *Niewiarygodne przygody Marka Piegusa*, with a discussion with Dr Monika Bator (of the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce), and Dr Barbara Kasprzyk-Dulewicz.
  - https://www.facebook.com/MuzeumZabaweiZabawy/posts/pfbid02uXzJnAfbCQX7rDodKcMJfv9NfhvMcfV8QKVJkbAbxSw4sYVNNDZ7sxNzVbzPP7RYl
- **August 30th** – *Backyard Cinema* – screening of the film *Klub włóczykijów i tajemnica dziadka Hieronima*.
  - https://www.facebook.com/reel/1140146504627034

Thanks to the Museum of Toys and Play in Kielce, screen adaptations of Niziurski's prose were shown to fans of Niziurski's writing and film enthusiasts of all ages; on August the 16th, the TV series *Niewiarygodne przygody Marka Piegusa*, and on August the 30th, the film *Klub włóczykijów i tajemnica dziadka Hieronima*.

The screenings were preceded by a short talk by Dr Monika Bator, a cultural studies scholar from the Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics, who introduced the audience to the topic of the film adaptations of Niziurski's books.

Prior to the first screening, there was also a discussion with Dr Barbara Kasprzyk-Dulewicz from the Museum of Toys and Play in Kielce, who is, amongst other things, the curator of the *Not Just for Rascals – The Worlds of Edmund Niziurski* exhibition, as well as Dr Monika Bator of the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce.

OCTOBER 2025 – media highlights

- **October 9th** – First broadcast of *W Krainie Urwisów*, a feature on TVP Kultura (dir. Karolina Kopijkowska-Harczuk), which showcased selected events from the Year of Niziurski, including the conference and accompanying events, and an exhibition in Room 285 (the Edmund Niziurski room) at the ILSL.
  - https://vod.tvp.pl/filmy-dokumentalne,163/w-krainie-urwisow,2437722/
- **October 9th** – Interview by Karolina Prewęcka for the *Dla Polonii* website with Marta Bolińska (JKU)

- https://ilij.ujk.edu.pl/niziurski2025/
- **October 11th** – *A Day with Niziurski at the History Meeting House in Warsaw* – with the support of the Copyright Association of Authors and Publishers (KOPIPOL) and the Kielce Scientific Society
- **October 31st** – Closing of the exhibition at the MTP *Not Just for Rascals – the Worlds of Edmund Niziurski*.
- https://www.facebook.com/MuzeumZabawekiZabawy/posts/pfbid034TRf5AxfyMBL3c9TKSLXpdbCQdbyNmHByLmuVV8xN41VnomkHrPuA37o2LqnwiNGl

NOVEMBER 2025 – memories and meetings

- **November 6th** – Open meeting in the E. Niziurski Room 285 at the Jan Kochanowski University with the writer's eldest daughter, Anna Niziurska-Włodarska, and his granddaughter, Małgorzata Konstanzer. The meeting was moderated by Marta Bolińska, Ph.D., JKU Professor, and included personal memories and family reflections.
- **November 13th** – Linguistics workshop and panel discussion entitled *Which is easier (or more difficult) to translate into foreign languages: Edmund Niziurski's prose or articles about his work?* This event included a meeting of academic staff, undergraduates, and PhD students to summarise the translational context of literary works and research into them. The discussion was chaired by Aleksandra Kobiałka, MA, of the Doctoral School of the Jan Kochanowski University.

DECEMBER 2025 – debates and publications

- **December 13th** – *A Day with Niziurski* – the Kielce Scientific Society, with the support of Copyright Association of Authors and Publishers (KOPIPOL):

Academic articles:

- *Niziurski in the Balkans* – with an article by Marta Bolińska, Ph.D., Professor of the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, *100th Anniversary of the Birth of the Edmund Nizhursky National Academic Conference*: *Gallery of Images. Map of Locations*, Dzâlo 2025 R. 13 z. 32, s. 1-5 [Bulgarian: *100-годишнина от рождението на Едмунд Нижурски Общополска научна конференция – Галерия от образи. Карта на местата*];
- *Niziurski in Philological Studies at JKU (SF JKU)* – with an article by Arkadiusz Luboń, Ph.D., Rzeszów University Professor, and Stanisław Uliasz, Prof. Ph.D. (also Rzeszów University) entitled *Osobliwe przypadki metaliteratury. Literatura i literaci jako wątek tematyczny w twórczości Edmunda Niziurskiego* in: 'Studia Filologiczne JKU' 2025, vol. 38, pp. 45–62;
- *Niziurski in English* – with an article by Piotr Boliński, M.Sc. Eng. (AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków) and Bogusz Boliński (Jagiellonian University in Kraków), *Undesirable behaviour towards staff (based on selected works by Edmund Niziurski) in the context of legal protection and proposed changes to statutory definitions found in the Labour Code*, in: 'Studia Filologiczne JKU' 2025, vol. 38, pp. 135–146.

MARCH to MAY 2026 – the second year of the competition (social impact)

- The second *The Secrets of Mr N.* National Literary and Art Competition.

JUNE 2026 – an international conference in Bulgaria

- **June 4th - 5th** – Conference at the Faculty of Modern Languages of the University of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Veliko Tarnovo (Bulgaria), during which Agnieszka Miernik, Ph.D., JKU Professor (Department of Polish Literature, ILSL, JKU in Kielce) and Marta Bolińska, Ph.D., JKU Professor (Department of Cultural Studies, ILSL, JKU in Kielce) presented the work of Edmund Niziurski in a talk entitled *Pisarz w Centrum Uwagi. Rok Edmunda Niziurskiego w Kielcach Jako Forma Upamiętnienia Twórczości Znanego Polaka* [The Writer in the Spotlight. The Year of Edmund Niziurski in Kielce as a way of commemorating the work of the renowned Pole]
  - https://www.uni-vt.bg/bul/pages/?zid=3&page=8028/
- **June 10th** – Announcement of the results and the prize-giving ceremony for the 2nd National Literary and Art Competition, *The Secrets of Mr N.*

JULY 2026

- **July 9th** – Master's thesis defence of the work of the Kielce-born author, entitled *Recepcja Prozy Edmunda Niziurskiego w Świadomości Współczesnych Seniorów* [The reception of Edmund Niziurski's prose in the mentality of today's senior citizens], which took place at the ILSL, Jan Kochanowski University. The thesis was written by Rozalia Urbanik, BA, under the academic supervision of Zbigniew Trzaskowski, JKU Professor, from the Department of Cultural Studies. The academic reviewer was Marta Bolińska, JKU Professor, chair of the National Academic Conference, *Gallery of Characters. Map of Places. To Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary of his Birth.*

OCTOBER 2026

- **October 8th** – A farewell to Prof. J. Pacławski.
- **October 8th** – Presentation of monographs entitled *Przechowane, niezapomniane, przywrócone. Pamięci Edmunda Niziurskiego i Jana Pacławskiego* [Preserved, unforgotten, restored. In memory of Edmund Niziurski and Jan Pacławski], and *W poszukiwaniu śladów pamięci. Różne figury powrotów w obiegu (nie tylko) literackim* [In Search of Traces of Memory. Various Figures of Return in Circulation (Not Only) in Literature]. An exhibition in memory of Prof. Jan Pacławski was also held, as well as a commemorative event at the JKU University Library.
- **October 9th – 13th** anniversary of E. Niziurski's death.



Photo from project archive (website)

Part 2

ZOOM

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE EVENTS PROGRAMME

NOVEMBER 2024 to DECEMBER 2025

On anniversaries and related events

Scientific and cultural institutions in Kielce joined forces under the banner of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Edmund Niziurski (1925-2013), a native of Kielce, writer, journalist, and lawyer. To commemorate the output of the author of *Sposób na Alcybiadesa*, an academic conference was held with the name *Gallery of Characters. Map of Places. To Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary of his Birth*. The project was co-funded by the state budget, allocated by the Minister for Science under the Excellent Science II Programme. Support for Scientific Conferences, led by Marta Bolińska, Ph.D., JKU Professor. Numerous other events co-organised by the Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics at the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, the Jerzy Pilch Municipal Public Library in Kielce, and the Museum of Toys and Play, also in Kielce.

Over the course of several weeks, representatives of the aforementioned organisations, including MPL Director Anna Żmudzińska, MTP Director Daria Dyktyńska, ILSL Director P. Zbróg, Prof. Ph.D., and Project Leader Marta Bolińska, Ph.D., JKU Professor, discussed the forms and nature of their joint effort and the course of the events, and drew up a schedule. Implementation of the ideas they developed became a fitting way to mark the centenary of the writer's birth.

The following organisations provided honorary patronage of the celebrations: Her Magnificence the Rector of Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, Beata Wojciechowska, Prof. Ph.D., and Agata Wojda, Mayor of Kielce. Academic patrons were The Centre for Research of Children's Literature and Culture within the Institute of Polish Philology at the University of the National Education Commission, and the Institute of Journalism and International Relations at UKEN in Kraków. Numerous cultural, scientific and educational institutions also joined the efforts.

A commitment to meeting the needs of the residents of Kielce and other regions of Poland – particularly fans of all ages of Niziurski's prose – became one of the key themes of the 2025 events in Niziurski's

birthplace. The academic meetings also served as open-door debates. Literary scholars, as well as linguists, cultural studies scholars, historians, media studies scholars, artists, and anyone else with an interest in the subject reflected on both the state of contemporary literature and the merits of Niziurski's prose within the cultural contexts of his work.

The project featured a range of additional activities, such as competitions, workshops, guided walks, as well as shared reflection and entertainment. Events included open competitions for original cover designs for Niziurski's works, short prose pieces, and lesson plans inspired by the author's book *Awantura w Niekłaju*.

As part of the XXXIII Language Culture Week in March, under the slogan *Though the storm rages all around us, let us lift our heads high*, humour-themed Edmund Niziurski workshops, among other things, were also held. During these workshops we read excerpts from selected works by Niziurski together and created illustrations. On International Book and Copyright Day in April, we created book covers, exercise books, and bookmarks, and took part in graphic design workshops.

During the National Academic Conference, alongside discussions among scholars, we also organised exhibitions (including displays of different covers of Niziurski's books), an art therapy workshop, a multisensory trail, a quiz, and a memory-sharing event.

FEBRUARY 2025

The Year of Edmund Niziurski in Kielce

On Thursday, the 13th of February 2025, the councillors of the City of Kielce adopted a resolution declaring 2025 to be the Year of Edmund Niziurski in Kielce, marking the 100th anniversary of the writer's birth (1925-2013). In recommending the adoption of the resolution, Mayor Agata Wojda recalled the work of the author of *Siódme wtajemniczenie* and his connections with Kielce and the Świętokrzyskie region.



Formal session of the Kielce City Council. Announcement of the E. Niziurski's Year. *Photo from project archive (website)*

Special guests at the session included members of the writer's family, including his daughter Anna Niziurska-Włodarska, and Her Magnificence the Rector of the Jan Kochanowski University, Beata Wojciechowska, Prof. Ph.D., who pointed out that the idea for the scientific and educational conference originated with the Department of Cultural Studies at the Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics, Jan Kochanowski University. Dr hab. Marta Bolińska, Ph.D., JKU Professor, drew up a proposal for the *Gallery of Characters. Map of Places. To Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary of his Birth* National Academic Conference and obtained funding from the state budget, allocated by the Minister for Science as part of the Excellent Science II Programme – Support for Scientific Conferences.

Numerous lectures, games, and cultural and educational events (such as competitions, workshops, and guided walks), served as an invitation to the residents of Kielce, the region, and the country to come and join in. The open and wide-ranging format of the conference provided an opportunity both to revisit the honouree's body of work, and to explore his writing, whilst also reflecting in depth on the history of Polish literature and culture. In organising and running these events, the Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics at Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce worked with several bodies, including the Jerzy Pilch Municipal Public Library and the Museum of Toys and Play, both in Kielce, which also organised numerous other events as part of *The Seventh Initiation, or the Trick for Niziurski (the MPL), and Not Just for Rascals – The Worlds of Edmund Niziurski* (the MTP) projects. The idea for many of the joint events originated at the ILSL. Educational, cultural, and academic institutions from across Poland also accepted the invitation to join in.

The June conference also provided an opportunity to celebrate the 90th birthday anniversary of Prof. Jan Pacławski, a scholar specialising in the works of Niziurski, amongst others, an editor of collective monographs devoted to the oeuvre of the author of *Księga urwisów*, and a promoter of literature from the Świętokrzyskie region.

The conference website at https://ilij.ujk.edu.pl/niziurski2025 serves as an information forum, where information on the numerous events related to the Jubilee and the Year of Edmund Niziurski in Kielce continues to be published.

MARCH 2025

As part of the XXXIII Language Culture Week in March, under the slogan *Though the storm rages all around us, let us lift our heads high,* Edmund Niziurski humour-themed workshops were organised – featuring the so-called Torbogogi – during which participants read excerpts from selected works by Niziurski and created illustrations. On International Book and Copyright Day in April, participants created book covers, exercise books, and bookmarks, and took part in graphic design workshops.



Photo from project archive (website)

TORBOGOG FESTIVAL as part of the Language Culture Week

The artistic workshops at the Institute began with readings from selected excerpts of Edmund Niziurski's novels, as pupils from the Complex of Integrative Educational Facilities in Micigoźd and from Sobków Primary School explored the

prose of the author of *Sposób na Alcybiadesa*. The guests were given a ceremonial welcome and invited to engage in creative activities run by Professor Zbigniew Trzaskowski, Head of the Department of Cultural Studies at ILSL and co-organiser of the project under which the artistic events took place.

The young artists approached the task with great enthusiasm; the idea was to paint the 'gogs' (teachers) and other characters from the works of Kielce's Patron of the Year 2025. Coloured pencils, felt-tip pens, and fingers moved quickly across the rooms, bags, and sheets of paper, conjuring up extraordinary portraits of unforgettable characters. Using paintbrushes, the pupils brought to life characters from *Klub włóczykijów*, *Niewiarygodne przygody Marka Piegusa* and the good-natured professor Tymoteusz Misiak, a.k.a. the historian from *Sposób na Alcybiadesa*, as well as Renata Okulczycka, known as Okulla, from *Szkolny lud, Okulla i ja*. Many colourful portraits were kept at our Institute as a memento of this special encounter with the writer and his books as part of Language Culture Week, whose motto – taken from a quote by Niziurski – encourages dreaming and learning: *Though the storm rages all around us, let us lift our heads high!* Just like the Gallery of Characters. Map of Places. To Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary of his Birth project as a whole was co-funded by the Minister for Science, and combined science, education, and fun.

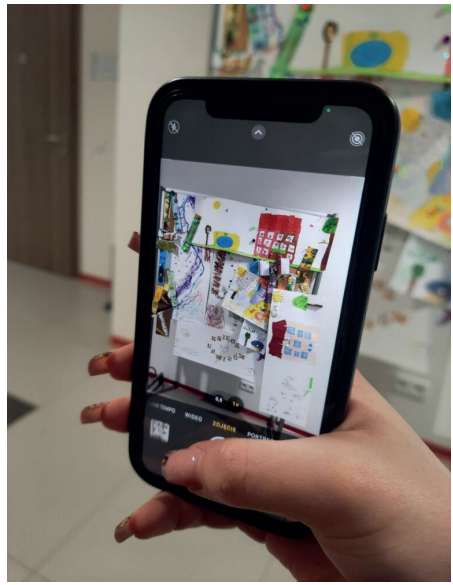


Photo from project archive (website)

Zajączków, or Wilczków in the writer's novel and letters

Edmund Niziurski was born on the 10th of July, 1925 in Kielce, and died in 2013 in Warsaw. He graduated from the J. Śniadecki Lower Secondary School in Kielce. Niziurski published his first novel for young adults in 1954, setting the plot of *Księga urwisów* in Kielce, in a village with the fictional name of Wilczków, whose topographical layout corresponds to the village of Zajączków near Kielce. In the years that followed, he published many novels and short stories that were well-loved and widely read, not only by young readers. The years towards the end of the 20th century were particularly prolific, as the author, in many cases, went on to write about the subsequent lives and adventures of his earlier characters. His best-selling works include *Sposób*

na Alcybiadesa, *Niewiarygodne przygody Marka Piegusa*, and *Przygody Bąbla i Syfona*.

We received a letter from pupils and teachers at the Heroes of the January Uprising Primary School in Zajączków, in the Town and Municipality of Piekoszów, Świętokrzyskie Province, who recalled that Edmund Niziurski had corresponded with the pupils at the primary school in Zajączków.

Pupils from the Polish language club, under the guidance of their Polish teacher at the time, Włodzimierz Zacharz, exchanged several letters with the writer, which today are an extremely precious mementoes for the whole school community. The writer sent his regards and asked for photographs of the places described in the novel *Księga urwisów*, to see how they looked years later. He thanked them for getting in touch, writing: *They're sitting on my desk; they remind me of your neighbourhood and my time in Zajączków and near Miedzianka*. The letters were in response to messages from pupils at the Polish language club. Representatives from the school met with Włodzimierz Zacharz , who spoke fondly of the old days when he worked at the school in Zajączków. The activities organised by pupils and teachers to mark the 100th anniversary of the writer's birth were intended to highlight the life of Edmund Niziurski and the rich and significant history of the local school. The pupils familiarised themselves with the novel and the film, drew portraits of the characters, and demonstrated their knowledge in a quiz about the film, with their activities culminating in a group treasure hunt, all of which was entitled *In the Footsteps of the Rascals*.

XXXIII Language Culture Week in Zajączków

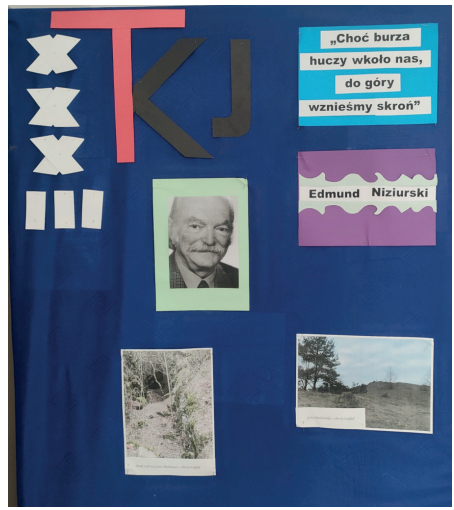


Photo from project archive (website)

The correspondence suggests that when the idea of writing the novel first appeared in the writer's mind, he took up residence in one of the blocks of flats in Miedzianka so that he could draw inspiration from the local surroundings – the school, the pupils, and the shafts of the old mine. A film, *Tajemnica dzikiego szybu* [*The Mystery of the Wild Shaft*], was later made based on the novel, and the old mine in Miedzianka – which now houses the Ore Mining Museum – as well as the school in Zajączków, also served as sets for the film. Niziurski himself wrote the screenplay for the film. The pupils and teachers from Zajączków were delighted to share their letters and memories with us, and were glad to be able to pass on these precious mementoes and words to future generations of pupils, so that they, too, might keep the memory of those events alive. All the more so, as according

to Niziurski's last letter to the pupils: *Although my novels bear the mark of the times in which they were written, although they may seem 'dated', even historical in a sense, to today's readers, they are still being read and have qualities that this 'datedness' has not diminished – qualities that, as some critics argue, even add to their charm.*

During the XXXIII Language Culture Week, the pupils and teachers of the primary school in Zajączków followed in the footsteps of the characters from Niziurski's novels around the local area, discovering and recalling the places and landscapes depicted by the author in *Księga urwisów*. Other notable events included: classroom meetings focusing on the writer's connection with the school in the Miedzianka area; a presentation of letters from 1988 and 1989 addressed to the Polish language club; a quiz on the film *Tajemnica dzikiego szybu*; a hike up Miedzianka Mountain (*In the Footsteps of the Rascals*), and an art and literature competition – *Portrait of Niziurski The Rascal*. The school is still in possession of the letters from Edmund Niziurski, in which Niziurski wrote that some of the characters in the novel are based on pupils from the school. Moreover, in one of his letters to the pupils, the author himself explains:

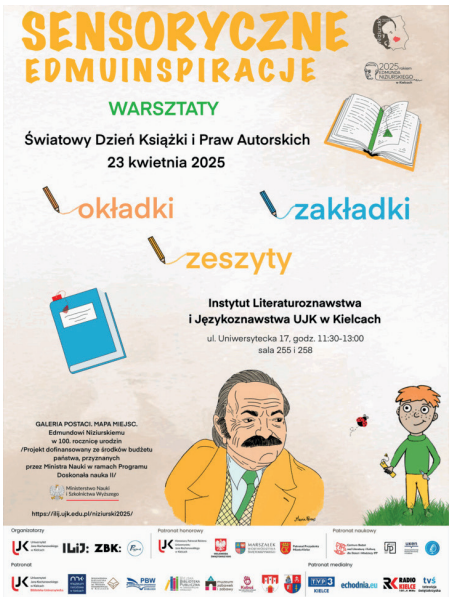
Dear Readers from the Polish Language Club at the School in Zajączków!

I receive a lot of letters from readers, but your letter moved me particularly because it is from Zajączków, and Zajączków, as you certainly know, is closely linked to the origins of "Księga urwisów"*. In the novel, it's called Wilczków, but it's the same town…*

The Zajączków community encourages anyone who is not yet familiar with Edmund Niziurski's novel and the *Tajemnica dzikiego szybu* film to get to know them.

APRIL 2025

Niekłaj and Wilczków, or EDMUINSPIRATIONS



Edmuinspirations at the Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics, Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce. *Photo from project archive (website)*

On Wednesday, the 23rd of April 2025, to mark World Book and Copyright Day, we welcomed to the ILSL pupils and teachers from the Complex of Inclusive Educational Facilities in Micigoźd, and the Edmund Niziurski Primary School in Słopiec, the John Paul II Primary School in Sobków, and the Heroes of the January Uprising Primary School in Zajączków, who created their own unique designs for book covers, bookmarks, exercise books, and notebooks.

The classrooms were filled with the scent of spices, white cards, paints, crayons, shells, glitter, and copies of Niziurski's

novels *Księga urwisów* and *Awantura w Niekłaju*. Both books are set in the Świętokrzyskie region.

During the workshop, the participants had an opportunity to learn about the different techniques for making book covers, before proceeding to creating their own works. They also produced notebooks whose covers were inspired by Niziurski's works. With *Awantura w Niekłaju* and *Księga urwisów* taking centre stage, excerpts were read aloud to mark the start of this special encounter with the writing, painting techniques, and the creative book workshop. The readings were the source of vivid descriptions of the old, almost mysterious garden (with corners such as the Garden of Whispers and the Glade of Thistles), evocative portraits of animals (such as a fox, a squirrel, and tortoises), picturesque images of the tall school building in Wilczków (or Zajączków), with its red walls, and the slightly unsettling outline of the cottage in Miedziane Pole (the former home of Wiktor Stopa).



Notebooks by the young artists. *Photo from project archive (website)*

ABOUT NIZIURSKI in Słopiec

On April the 25th, 2025 in Słopiec, at the only school in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship named after Niziurski, visitors were able to learn some biographical details about the school's patron, presented through verses from poems written about him. Staged scenes from the novel *Sposób na Alcybiadesa* provided an insight into the writer's work (with artistic direction overseen by, amongst others, Katarzyna Skubik, a graduate of our Polish Studies programme). The winners of *The Life and Work of Edmund Niziurski* art competition and the *Poems about Niziurski* poetry competition received their prizes from several persons, including the writer's daughters Anna Niziurska-Włodarska and Agnieszka Niziurska.



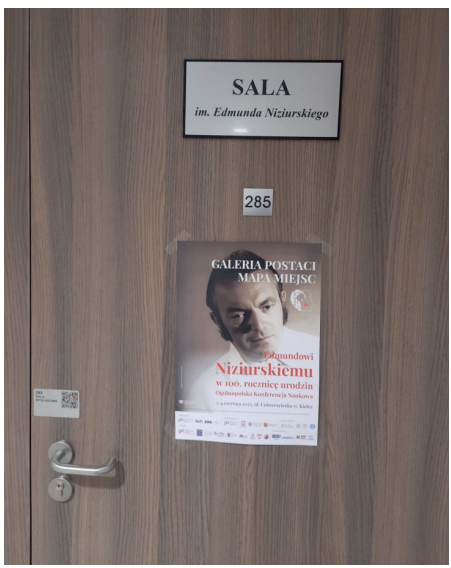
We were invited to Słopiec for the 10th anniversary of the naming of the primary school in Słopiec after Edmund Niziurski (joint celebration of the event). *Photo from project archive (website)*

Marta Bolińska, Ph.D., JKU Professor, thanked the management, teachers and pupils of the primary school in Słopiec, as well as the Friends of Słopiec Society, for the invitation to the Patron's Day celebrations, and spoke about the academic, educational, and cultural activities organised by the Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics at the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce as part of the Year of Niziurski. She also encouraged

everyone to take part in the National Academic Conference, *Gallery of Characters. Map of Places. To Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary of his Birth* from the 3rd to 4th of June, as well as the accompanying creative workshops, literary and art competitions, and themed discussions. Rozalia Urbanik, a student of Polish Studies, handed out invitations to the June event that were dedicated to the honouree.

JUNE 2025

- **June 3rd** – Key events of the *Gallery of Characters. Map of Places. To Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary of his Birth* National Academic Conference included:
  - Jubilee of Prof. Jan Pacławski.
  - Ceremony to name Room 285 after Edmund Niziurski – a ceremonial ribbon-cutting by Prof. Jan Pacławski.



Room named after Edmund Niziurski at ILSL. *Photo from project archive (website)*

- **June 3rd – Opening of an exhibition of books by Niziurski** with a focus on comparing the covers of different editions of the same titles.



Exhibition display (covers of books by Edmund Niziurski). *Photo from project archive (website)*



June 3rd – Exhibition of works by the winners of *The Secrets of Mr N.* 1st National Literary and Art Competition. *Photo from project archive (website)*

Plenary lectures

- **June 3rd – Plenary lecture by Dorota Michułka, Ph.D. Wrocław University Professor** (online) entitled 'Boyhood' *and the turbulent journey of growing up in the novels of Edmund Niziurski.*



Dorota Michułka, Ph.D., Wrocław University Professor (plenary lecture). *Photo from project archive*

- **June 4th – *How to study contemporary cultural texts and phenomena?* conference panel.**



Małgorzata Chrobak, Ph.D., UKEN Professor in Kraków (Head of the Centre for Research into Children's and Young People's Literature and Culture at UKEN – the conference's academic patron) during a panel discussion entitled *(Post-)modern Niziurski.* *Photo from project archive*

June 3rd - 4th – Panel sessions

- Places and Surroundings,
- Characters and Values,
- History and Culture – Translations and Examples,
- A Different Perspective: Texts and Contexts.



Presentation of a paper by Magdalena Żukowska-Bąk, MA: *The School as a Space of Control and Resistance – Mechanisms Governing Pupils' Functioning within the Education System and Their Representation in the Works of Edmund Niziurski.* *Photo from project archive*



Lecture by Agnieszka Miernik, Ph.D., JKU Professor (online): *The experience of initiation* (rite de passage) *as a major theme in the works of Edmund Niziurski for young audiences.* *Photo from project archive*

- *Niziurski: A Multisensory Experience* workshops – with pupils from the Heroes of the January Uprising Primary School in Zajączków, and the Jan Kochanowski Primary School in Chęciny.

- Interviews on Radio Fraszka with Jan Pacławski, Prof. Ph.D., Anna Wzorek, Ph.D. JKU Professor, and conference speaker Arkadiusz Luboń, Ph.D. Rzeszów University Professor.



Photo from project archive (website)

Conference events:

- Meeting with Edmund Niziurski's family – attended by his daughters Anna Niziurska-Włodarska and Agnieszka Niziurska, his granddaughters Małgorzata Konstanzer and Julia Sobczyk, his grandson Łukasz Włodarski, and members of the Kielce-based part of the family: Ewa Wrona, Katarzyna Wrona, and Jolanta Stefańska-Amerek;
- *Walks in Niziurski's Footsteps*, including walks exploring the landscapes of the Świętokrzyskie region, with photographs of places such as Miedzianka, a multisensory sculpture of a stone run (*gołoborze*) inspired by *Klub włóczykijów*, a family walk with memories shared by Niziurski's family, a bibliographical and sensory walk, and others.



Photo from project archive (website)

- **June 3rd – Opening of exhibitions at the JKU University Library**: *The works of Edmund Niziurski. From the collections of the University Library* and Celebrating Professor Jan Pacławski's 90th birthday anniversary (curated by Jolanta Drążyk, Ph.D., and Magdalena Antoniak, MA).


Edmund Niziurski
Edmund Niziurski
Edmund Niziurski

- **June 3rd** – Presentation of the *Literary Thicket* art installation in Artists' Square, announcing the MTP exhibition.
  - https://www.facebook.com/roked-mundaniziurskiegowkielcach/posts/pfbid02sCZv6ro41zwWHqe4KjmYR-JHke4pGaiFJwNUJXUJA5vwnmb2C-GT2WquDekVJGSzmEl
- **June 4th** – *Gallery of Characters. Map of Places. To Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary of his Birth* National Academic Conference, including:
  - A panel conference and panel sessions,
  - Announcement of the results of *The Secrets of Mr N.* 1st National Literary and Art Competition,
  - Literary and art workshops for the competition winners,
  - A quiz organised and run by Agnieszka Dolecka, MA,
  - A memory exchange (readers and academics on Niziurski), with a collection of quotations entitled 'Niziurski for the Road'.



Programme of the National Academic Conference: *Gallery of Characters. Map of Places. To Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary of his Birth* (June 3rd – 4th, 2025). *Photo from project archive (website)*

Not only *children's studies*

In *Księga dla starych urwisów. Wszystko, czego jeszcze nie wiecie o Edmundzie Niziurskim* (2019) Krzysztof Varga asks a series of important questions, such as what it was about the writing of the author of *Sposób na Alcybiadesa* that made his stories, set in simple Poland, speak not only so deeply to our hearts, but also to our minds?, and why do Zygmunt Miłoszewski, Jerzy Pilch, Juliusz Machulski, Mariusz Czubaj, Grzegorz Kasdepke and many others admit in the pages of his book that "Niziurski was our Master," and can quote passages from his novels off the top of their heads? (K. Varga, *Księga dla starych urwisów*, Warsaw 2019, p. 11).

Together with academics and fans of the author of *Księga urwisów*, we sought answers to these and other questions from the perspective of various schools of interpretation, which offer an opportunity to describe, analyse and promote children's culture. The topics included the perspective of *children studies* in literature, narrative conventions, and illustrations in the author's books, film adaptations based on his prose and the themes of his books, the Kielce region in prose, historical monuments, the landscapes and infrastructure portrayed in the books, the portrayal of school and peer groups, the hero archetype, toponymy and onomastics in the prose, the characters' vocabulary, narrative language, autobiographical locations, humour, adventure, suspense, greatness, literary series in the author's work, Niziurski's writing as an inspiration for others, his work in academic research and the secrets of the literary craft of the author of *Księga urwisów*.



Commemorative group photo of conference participants. *Photo from project archive (website)*

We exchanged our experiences of the different ways of portraying children's characters in texts from different periods of Niziurski's writing career. Research interests discussed also included attempts to recreate children's perceptual perspectives. Niziurski's works for adults were also discussed.

Conference with workshops

The National Academic Conference, alongside the scholars' debates, was accompanied by other attractions, including exhibitions of, for example, the various covers of Niziurski's books, his letters to the Polish Language Club in Zajączków, as well as an art therapy workshop and a multisensory trail, a quiz, and a memory exchange.



Letters from Edmund Niziurski to pupils at the Primary School in Zajączków on display in the room named after E. Niziurski. *Photo from project archive*

***The Secrets of Mr N.* 1st National Literary and Art Competition**

As part of the *Gallery of Characters. Map of Places. To Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary of his Birth* National Academic Conference, a literary and art competition was organised, comprising the following categories: literary, literary and visual arts, visual arts (including the sub-category of graphics), and lesson plans. The winners were then announced. On the second day of the conference, on June the 4th, the awards were presented by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Jerzy Gapys, Ph.D., JKU Professor, to the winners. Diplomas and gifts were also presented by the Director of the Gustaw Herling-Grudziński Provincial Pedagogical Library (PPL) in Kielce, Piotr Kisiel. The PPL was one of the sponsors of the awards. Other sponsors included The National Museum in Kielce, the Museum of Toys and Play in Kielce, the Witold Gombrowicz Provincial Public Library in Kielce, Kielce City Hall, the Municipality and Town of Chęciny, the Town and Municipality of Piekoszów, the Kubuś Puppet and Actor Theatre in Kielce, the Cultural Centre Library in Piekoszów, and the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce. The ceremony was hosted by a first-year Master's student (Polish language studies), Rozalia Urbanik, BA.

The Competition Jury reviewed over a hundred entries, with 54 participants receiving prizes. Entries had been received from several provinces, from all over Poland, including Brzezinki, Daleszyce, Jędrzejów, Kielce, Korytnica, Kostomłoty Drugie, Kraków, Micigózd, Nowa Dęba, Ożarów, Piekoszów, Sędziszów, Słopiec, Sobków, and Zajączków. Primary school pupils from years 1-3, 4-6, 7-8, secondary school pupils and university students, all competed with each other.



Exhibition of competition entries. *Photo from project archive (website)*

The main aim of the event was to raise awareness of Edmund Niziurski's writing and to promote reading. Participants could choose from four categories:

a) A literary text, such as a short story, letter, or diary, etc., which had not yet been published either in full or in part.
b) An artistic work created using any traditional technique (for example, drawing, postermaking, painting, printmaking, mixed media, collage), or digital technique (works created entirely using a computer or through applications and digital devices).
c) A literary form combined with an artistic work. For example, the text of a short story supplemented by illustrations created using any technique, with

graphic or digital editing, and being the participant's own original creation.

d) An original lesson plan inspired by the works of Edmund Niziurski.



Award-winning competition entries (selection). *Photo from project archive (website)*

Quotes and riddles

A special part of the project and conference events was the presentation of riddles relating to Edmund Niziurski, which were eagerly solved by the participants, and not only during the conference itself.

The riddles were prepared by Agnieszka Dolecka, MA (Department of Cultural Studies, ILSL, Jan Kochanowski University), the author of more than 150 brainteasers. For 44 weeks, the project's website featured all kinds of puzzles as part of the *Week of Riddles* series, including crosswords, rebuses, charades, cryptograms and coded puzzles, word games, name puzzles, word chains, letter-shifting puzzles, word-completion tasks and lots of other original types of brainteasers. The riddles also made an appearance in the conference room during the sessions.

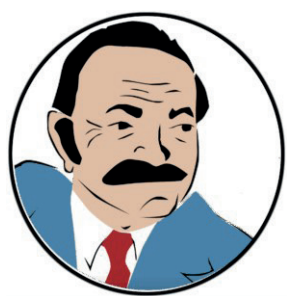
It is worth noting that the essence of the puzzles lay in guessing a hidden word or phrase, phenomenon or object, based on a description, rhyme, play on words, or rebus. Games like these encourage logical thinking and memory, and help to develop creativity and expand vocabulary. The games include picture puzzles, logic puzzles, and rhyming puzzles.

The charades were presented as a type of word puzzle, usually in verse, in which the syllables of the words to be guessed (encoded as numbers) lead to the final answer. Solving a charade required deciphering a number of hidden meanings.



Rozwiązanie: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

JULY 2025



On Edmund Niziurski on the 100th anniversary of his birth (1925-2013)

Niziurski was born in Kielce on the 10th of July, 1925. He grew up there and began his school education, which was interrupted by the Second World War. After the war, he completed his studies, started a family, and began writing.

Not just memories

The phenomenon of Edmund Niziurski's writings was recognised by readers as early as the 1960s. Literary scholars (including Krystyna Kuliczkowska, Gertruda Skotnicka, Marek Kątny, Stanisław Frycie, Jan Pacławski and others), soon began discussing the work of the prose writer. A lawyer by training, his first literary attempts attracted the attention of various cultural circles. Early in his work as a writer, which he initially pursued in the *Wieś* weekly magazine, he dealt with rural themes and reportage (for example, *Z zapadłej wsi*, 1953). He wrote critical literary texts, film scripts, was a publicist, playwright, and author of radio plays and television shows. He worked with Polish Radio and the youth magazines *Płomyk* and *Świat Młodych*. In 1965, at the Classical Theatre in Warsaw, he staged a play that he wrote for a competition run by the theatre, entitled *Wakacje z intruzami* [Holiday with Intruders].

He wrote his debut works for adults. His first novel, *Gorące dni* (1951), was also focused on the Polish countryside. The change in topics and conventions came with subsequent publications; *Śmierć Lawrence'a*, published in 1956, followed two years later by *Przystań Eskulapa* (1958), and *Pięć manekinów* (1959), which already showed a different, more suspenseful kind of work. Niziurski had also been published back in the times of the occupation, with *Wyraj* (1964). His social and moral novels include *Salon wytrzeźwień* (1964), *Eminencje i bałłabancje* (1975), and *A potem niech biją dzwony* (1976).

His popularity and recognition came from his works for juvenile audiences, primarily sensationalist stories, detective plots, and school stories. Many critics and researchers believe that Niziurski's success among readers and their appreciation of him is due not only to his ingenuity in managing novel plots, his colourful creation of characters with unusual names, his omnipresent humour or fast-paced narration, but also because, in writing, he became known as an astute observer and expert on the psyche of young people.

As such, the following works are now considered classics of children's and young adult literature: *Księga urwisów* (1954), *Lizus* (1956), *Niewiarygodne przygody Marka Piegusa* (1959), *Lalu Koncewicz, broda i miłość* (1959), *Awantura w Niekłaju* (1962), *Sposób na Alcybiadesa* (1964), *Jutro klasówka* (1966), *Siódme wtajemniczenie* (1969), *Klub włóczykijów, czyli trzynaście przygód stryja Dionizego i jego ekipy* (1970), *Naprzód Wspaniali!* (1974), *Osobliwe przypadki Cymeona Maksymalnego* (1975), *Awantury kosmiczne* (1979), *Szkolny lud, Okulla i ja* (1982), *Pierwsza księga urwisów* (1991), *Żaba, pozbieraj się, czyli siedem obłędnych dni Tomka Ż.* (1992), *Przygody Bąbla i Syfona* (1993), *Syfon na tropie* (1995), *Pięć melonów na rękę* (1996), *Największa przygoda Bąbla i Syfona* (1999), and many others.

Numerous of Niziurski's novels have been filmed, such as *Księga urwisów* (with the title *Tajemnica dzikiego szybu*, 1956), *Niewiarygodne przygody Marka Piegusa* (a TV series of the same name was made in 1966), and *Awantura w Niekłaju* (as *Tajemnica starego ogrodu*, 1983). A film entitled *Spona*, inspired by the novel *Sposób na Alcybiadesa,* was released in 1998, while *Klub włóczykijów* (based on the novel of the same name) was released in 2015. His works have also been translated into many languages, including Georgian, Lithuanian, Czech, and others.

Edmund Niziurski was a member of the Association of Polish Writers, and also a member of the Society of Authors (ZAiKS). He received many awards and accolades for his work and attitude, including the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, the Medal of the National Education Commission, the Gold Medal for Merit to Culture Gloria Artis, the Prime Minister's Award for works for young people, as well as the World of Children Foundation and the Polish branch of IBBY. He was also honoured with the Order of the Smile, and the Eagle Feather. In 2013, Kielce named the square at Kadzielnia after him. And by a resolution of the City Council, the year 2025 was declared the Year of Edmund Niziurski in Kielce.

AUGUST 2025

Backyard Cinema

In the course of the celebrations of the Year of Edmund Niziurski in Kielce, the Museum of Toys and Play organised two screenings as part of their summer *Backyard Cinema* series in the atmospheric outdoor setting of the courtyard of the former home of the Kubuś Theatre at ul. Duża number 9. The first two events in the series were *Niewiarygodne przygody Marka Piegusa* (on August the 16th), and the film *Klub włóczykijów i tajemnica dziadka Hieronima* (on the 30th of August). Both on-screen adaptations of Niziurski's prose were enjoyed by viewers of all ages. Particularly touching was the loud laughter from the younger members of the audience during the screening of *Niewiarygodne przygody…,* a black-and-white television series from 60 years ago. It turns out that Niziurski's universal humour – particularly his situational humour, which was rather successfully brought to the screen – still works today.

Prior to the first screening, there was also a discussion with Dr. Barbara Kasprzyk-Dulewicz from the Museum of Toys and Play in Kielce, who curated the *Not Just for Rascals – The Worlds of Edmund Niziurski* exhibition, and Dr. Monika Bator, a cultural studies scholar from the Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics, who gave an introduction on the topic of film adaptations of Niziurski's books.



Photo from project archive (website)

OCTOBER 2025

TVP feature on the project and Niziurski

On October the 9th, 2025 – the 12th anniversary of Edmund Niziurski's death – TVP Kultura broadcast a documentary entitled *W Krainie Urwisów*, directed by Karolina Kopijkowska-Harczuk. As well as recollections from the writer's family, it featured brief reports on the celebrations marking the Year of Edmund Niziurski in Kielce. Of course, there were references to the *Gallery of Characters. Map of Places. To Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary*

of his Birth project. For example, the report showed Room 285 at the Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics, which was named after Edmund Niziurski on the first day of the conference in a ceremony in which the ribbon was ceremonially cut by Professor Jan Pacławski, Ph.D. – initiator of the research into the work of the author of *Księga urwisów* at the research centre in Kielce. The documentary featured the exhibition of Niziurski's books accompanying the conference (with a focus on the different covers of different editions), as well as works by the winners of *The Secrets of Mr N.* 1st National Literary and Art Competition. The Institute's unique hall was also adorned with the 'Torbogogi' (cotton bags printed with characters from Niziurski's works) and the Niziurski-inspired sensory bookmarks, book covers, and notebooks created by the workshop participants. The enduring relevance of the issues addressed in Niziurski's work was discussed by, amongst others, Marzena Marczewska, Ph.D. JKU Professor, and our conference speakers Jarosław Dobrzycki, Ph.D., (Siemianowice Śląskie Municipal Public Library), and Piotr Zbróg, Prof. Ph.D., (Director of ILSL, Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce).



Photo from project archive (website)

In October, a *Day with Niziurski*, inspired by our activities, was organised at the History Meeting House in Warsaw with the support of the Copyright Association of Authors and Publishers (KOPIPOL) and the Kielce Scientific Society. The programme included:

- *Portrait of Marek Piegus* children's drawing competition.
- A screening of *Tajemnica dzikiego szybu*.
- A presentation on the life and work of Edmund Niziurski.
- A debate: *How have subsequent generations perceived the work of Edmund Niziurski?*

The debate, moderated by Patryk Zakrzewski, a journalist with the *Culture.pl* website, was attended by:

- Paweł Dunin-Wąsowicz – journalist,
- Maurycy Gomulicki – visual artist,
- Maciej Hen – writer,
- Grzegorz Kasdepke – writer,
- Sofia Konstanzer – great-granddaughter of Edmund Niziurski,
- Maria Kulik – president of the Polish Section of IBBY from 2007 to 2015;
- Grzegorz Leszczyński, Prof. Ph.D. – literary historian;
- Marzena Marczewska, Ph.D. JKU Professor – linguist, chair of the Kielce Scientific Society;
- Katarzyna Surmiak-Domańska – reporter;

› https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid02bxJaYGRDKUgZzMA1TN1QKmZN1CVMaBGKEyyirsw4ZhoMbmKTERLv82oSieu2ZcJRl&id=61573217454613

› https://www.facebook.com/events/2484284415201294 3/?active_tab=discussion

› https://dsh.waw.pl/program/dzien-z-niziurskim-film-prezentacja-debata/?fbclid=IwY2xjawPE-65leHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETBQR3NjUXlkTUh-

JRGZmeW9Rc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQM-jIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABH-p4HLuobW-ZqV5nfUKIHtuy-GfWqb-ko8S2_fzmJmVXkKjCx3yVPf-zKnY-nUe_aem_npZm-MbUBpnBnX-JQLzWG-A

NOVEMBER 2025

Poppy seed and coffee cake and other attractions

In early November 2025, we welcomed members of Edmund Niziurski's family. The writer's daughter, Anna Niziurska-Włodarska, and his granddaughter, Małgorzata Konstanzer, visited us to thank us in person for organising the *Gallery of Characters. Map of Places. To Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary of his Birth* National Academic Conference and accompanying events. They baked a special cake for the occasion, and the ladies also had a chat with students, who had gathered in the Edmund Niziurski Room 285, admiring the extraordinary collection of works dedicated to the writer and his creative output.

Our guests spoke about their shared mountain hikes, the writer's daily habits and interests, as well as his strengths and weaknesses. There was no shortage of personal anecdotes – not only about funny situations, but also some terrifying stories made up by the author especially for his loved ones.

This warm, heartfelt conversation, moderated by Professor Marta Bolińska, offered a glimpse at Niziurski not only as an outstanding writer and author of popular books for children and young people, but above all as a person: a much-loved father, grandfather, Eduś.

Although Niziurski spent most of his life in Warsaw, he was always keen to return to the Kielce region, and recalled his experiences in pre-war Kielce – the town of his birth – with great fondness; he kept Kielce alive in his memory and immortalised it in many of his literary works as a charming little town full of quirky characters. Anna recounted with amusement that the gardens tended by the writer resembled works by Picasso – far from symmetrical, instead full of fantasy and creative disorder. No wonder that one day their neighbour's daughter, watching these artistic experiments, asked in all seriousness, "So what does your dad actually do?"

There were also some culinary anecdotes; to save money for holiday travels, the family ate almost nothing but pasta with cheese for a month. One year, when the Niziurskis went on their summer holiday to Lake Balaton in Hungary, Edmund efficiently ordered a meal at a restaurant, in Hungarian. To the children's surprise, the waiter brought… pasta with cheese (a local speciality!).



Conversation over a slice of cake at ILSL. *From project archive (website)*

Mountain hikes were also a frequent topic in the recollections of the writer's closest relatives. When going to the mountains, Niziurski always brought some bottles of beer with him, which his son, Marcin, usually had to carry. At the summit, after the rigours of the climb, he would share the drink with his companions (even ones he didn't know), gazing out at the panorama of the Tatra Mountains with a smile and undisguised satisfaction.

At home, it was his wife, Barbara, who kept on top of the daily chores, whilst the writer would lose track of time, absorbed in solving one puzzle after another – whether mathematical, technical, or literary. For Niziurski, watches might as well not have existed at all. He often used plasticine as a versatile repair material, and even years later, this would surprise the house's new owners. When asked about Edmund Niziurski's greatest achievement, his daughter and granddaughter both replied without hesitation: his children. Although he received numerous awards, including the Order of the Smile, and recognition from the Polish section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), his family was what he valued most.

The meeting with Anna Niziurska-Włodarska and Małgorzata Konstanzer was a remarkable lesson in sensitivity and warmth. Their memories brought the figure of Edmund Niziurski back to life, not only as a writer, but also as a warm-hearted man with an enduring passion for discovering the world.



The 'after-cake' meeting. *Photo from project archive (website)*

Niziurskology in practice, or a few remarks on translation studies

Edmund Niziurski's works have been translated into twelve foreign languages. The works of this prose writer from Kielce have been published in Czech, Latvian, German, Slovak, Ukrainian, Russian, Lithuanian, Georgian, Chinese, Estonian, Hungarian, and Bulgarian.



On November the 13th, 2025, in the room named for Edmund Niziurski, a panel discussion was held: Which is easier (or more difficult) to translate into foreign languages: Edmund Niziurski's prose, or articles about his work? The speakers at the June conference – academic staff, undergraduates, and doctoral students – summarised the findings of their research and shared their reflections on the translation of academic and literary texts into English, German and Spanish.

The discussion covered various translation challenges, including the translation of titles and proper names, descriptions referring to events in Polish history, the realities of the socialist realist period, and other distinctive features of the language in Niziurski's prose.



Hybrid session – a linguistic debate. *Photo from project archive (website)*

The panel discussion was also attended by Marta Basiak, MA, providing insight into the specific characteristics of the Spanish publishing market and the state of the readership in Spain, and sharing her personal observations on the process of translating Niziurski's works. Although the students on the new course at our Institute of English Language Studies with Spanish, had begun their studies just a month and a half earlier, they successfully tackled the challenging task of translating excerpts from *Niewiarygodne przygody Marka Piegusa* into Spanish.



Linguistic debate entitled *Which is easier (or more difficult) to translate into foreign languages: Edmund Niziurski's prose or articles about his work?.* *Photo from project archive (website)*

December 2025

The Kielce Scientific Society and KOPIPOL organised an event that included, amongst other things, a dictation exercise inspired by Niziurski's work, and a debate on the writer's legacy.

The dictation exercise was named *Zasępa czuje szczeżuję, czyli superkatastrofa w Wędzarni*, while the debate was held under the title of *Edmund Niziurski. My writer, your writer, our writer*.

The debate was chaired by Marzena Marczewska, Ph.D., JKU Professor, and was attended by:

- Paweł Chmielewski, Editor-in-Chief of the *Projektor* cultural magazine. Author of several award-winning plays, as well as scripts for over a dozen comic books, and organiser of the Kielce Comic Book Presentations. Founder of the *ST Zenit* publishing house.
- Janusz Detka, Ph.D., a literary scholar specialising in Polish literature of the second half of the 20th century. Author of publications on the relationship between literature and politics, literature and literary life in the Świętokrzyskie region, and the interpretation of cultural texts.
- Barbara Gierszewska, Ph.D., a Polish literary scholar and film scholar, author of books and articles on the history of the press and film culture in Poland.
- Sofia Konstanzer, great-granddaughter of Edmund Niziurski.
- Krzysztof Varga, writer, literary critic, screenwriter, journalist. A multiple finalist and winner of the Nike Literary Prize. Author of numerous novels and the first biography of Edmund Niziurski, *Księga dla starych urwisów. Wszystko, czego jeszcze nie wiecie o Edmundzie Niziurskim* (2019).

› https://www.facebook.com/ktn.kielce/posts/pfbid07HUNJ9175LoRMb53qsAia4yG6ytGSHKorfmj8dWrWkKXJixzu3odpnuMQzDfuRzTl https://kielce.tvp.pl/90537276/zasepa-czuje-szczezuje-dyktando-w-stylu-sposobu-na-alcybiadesa?fbclid=IwY2xjawPE91FleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETBQR3NjUXlkTUhJRGZmeW9Rc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHpxpiR4zy9YPNb5kQnLvuWZV5GakXHsRUYjGhvfOqyxBFQue0s7bIMfEzaFv_aem_1qMqn_ItnjdT5uDv477WzQhttps://www.facebook.com/ktn.kielce/posts/pfbid02um6yitwrugJDWQkKAo7DU95LB5v6MfbrLgxX6ULiSr4BotadhLb7L6QXocp6rmgMl

June 2026

Internationalisation

Edmund Niziurski's work has been reaching beyond Poland's borders for years, not only through the numerous translations of his prose into foreign languages, but also thanks to the *Gallery of Characters. Map of Places…* conference, which resonated far beyond Europe. (See, for example, https://ilij.ujk.edu.pl/niziurski2025/).

In 2025, to mark the 100th anniversary of the writer's birth, the *Dla Polonii* website reminded many readers scattered around the globe of Niziurski. News of the events in Kielce, not just those anniversary-related, reached, for example, Italy, Australia, and the United States. We received a message from the US (sent to niziurski2025@ujk.edu.pl) talking about the response to our activities, and we also heard from researchers specialising in sport and its links to literature.

Research into Niziurski's work was also presented in 2026 at the *Languages-cultures-communications* international conference in Bulgaria, at the University of Veliko Tarnovo, where the prose of the Kielce-born writer was introduced to speakers from, among other places, Albania, Kosovo, Romania, and Tunisia.

The 2nd *Secrets of Mr N.* competition 2026: young people, writers and visual artists return to the ILSL

For the second time, the Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics at Jan Kochanowski

University in Kielce, the Department of Cultural Studies at the Institute, and the Pryzmat Literary Research Society invited primary and secondary school pupils from across Poland to take part in *The Secrets of Mr N.* National Literary and Art Competition. In accordance with Order No. 9/2026 of the Świętokrzyskie Regional Education Officer, dated February the 25th, 2026, the *Secrets of Mr N.* competition was included on the list of academic, artistic and sporting competitions organised by the Świętokrzyskie Regional Education Officer and other bodies operating within the school that can be listed on the primary school leaving certificate, and for the determination of places recognised as high-achieving in these competitions to be taken into account in the admission and supplementary enrolment procedures for 2026/2027 in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship.

The project's objectives included:

1) promoting the work of Edmund Niziurski amongst primary and secondary school pupils and university students;
2) fostering a love of literature and culture (including regional culture) amongst participants;
3) developing passions and interests;
4) encouraging the desire to engage in independent literary and artistic activities;
5) encouraging children, young people, and adults to read books;
6) developing the participants' imagination and artistic expression;
7) promoting readership;
8) drawing on the principles of cooperation, tolerance and values in a spirit of mutual respect.

The event was held under the patronage of:

- Świętokrzyskie Regional Education Officer in Kielce
- Their Magnificence the Rector of Jan Kochanowski University
- Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at Jan Kochanowski University
- Director of the Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics at Jan Kochanowski University
- The Stefan Żeromski Theatre in Kielce
- The Witold Gombrowicz Provincial Public Library in Kielce
- The Stefan Karski *Kubuś* Puppet and Actor Theatre in Kielce
- The Museum of Toys and Play
- The National Museum in Kielce
- The Gustaw Herling-Grudziński Provincial Pedagogical Library in Kielce
- The Jerzy Pilch Municipal Public Library in Kielce
- The Mayor of the Municipality and Town of Chęciny.

Information about the competition was posted on the website of the main organiser – the Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics in Kielce: https://ilij.ujk.edu.pl/konkurs-sekrety-pana-n-2026/ and on the website of the *Gallery of Characters Map of Places. To Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary of his Birth* project:

- https://ilij.ujk.edu.pl/niziurski2025/
- https://ilij.ujk.edu.pl/niziurski2025/index.php/konkursy-2/

The first stage of the school competition took place from March the 10th to May the 10th, 2026.

Pupils competed in three thematic categories, whilst the fourth competition category was reserved for university students:

1) Literary – short form (a letter, a diary entry, an original short story – up to 5,000 characters) inspired by the works of Edmund Niziurski.

2) Visual arts – an illustration or cover for any book by Niziurski (various formats, including posters).
3) Visual and literary – a piece (up to 5,000 characters) with illustrations inspired by the work of Niziurski.
4) A lesson plan devised by students (drawing on themes from texts by Niziurski).

During the school-level qualifying rounds, the teachers serving on the judging panels at each educational institution selected the three best entries in each thematic and age category (Years 1–3, 4–6, 7–8), and secondary schools). Pupils from thirty-seven schools in the Świętokrzyskie, Małopolskie and Dolnośląskie provinces took part in the school-level qualifying rounds. The participating schools submitted a total of 94 selected entries, created by 123 pupils, across all subject categories and age groups.

The second stage of the competition – the national stage – took place at the Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics at Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce.

The entries submitted were checked for compliance with the formal requirements – participants who had submitted incomplete entries were contacted by email and asked to provide any missing elements. The members of the jury committee were Marta Bolińska, Ph.D., JKU Professor (Chair of the Jury); Agnieszka Miernik, Ph.D., JKU Professor; Zbigniew Trzaskowski, JKU Professor; Dr. Paulina Drozdowska (of the S. Żeromski Theatre in Kielce); Agnieszka Dolecka, MA (Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce); Aleksandra Kobiałka, MA (the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce), and Rozalia Urbanik, BA (Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce), all of whom assessed the entries individually, taking the following criteria into account:

1) Compliance with the theme and the competition rules,
2) Artistic merit (the formal techniques employed),
3) Originality, ingenuity, and creative flair,
4) Aesthetics of the created work,
5) Quality of the work.



On June the 10th, 2026, at the Hall named after Prof. Zdzisław Jerzy Adamczyk, Ph.D., at ILSL of the Jan Kochanowski University (JKU), an official awards ceremony was held, during which the winners and selected entrants were presented with commemorative diplomas and prizes. The gala ceremony was graced by the presence of representatives from the organisations that had held patronage of the competition. The attendees included: Jerzy Gapys, Ph.D., JKU Professor, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities; Piotr Zbróg, Prof. Ph.D., Director of the Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics at JKU; Dr Magdalena Płusa, Deputy Director for Academic Affairs at ILSL (Polish Language Studies); Zbigniew Trzaskowski, Ph.D., JKU Professor, Head of the Department of Cultural Studies at ILSL; Marta Bolińska, Ph.D., JKU Professor, Chair of the jury; Dr Ilona Daria Dyktyńska, Director of the Museum of Toys and Play; Dr Agnieszka Kowalska-Lasek, Deputy Director for Branches of the National Museum in Kielce; Jolanta Świstak, Literary

Director of the Stefan Karski *Kubuś* Puppet and Actor Theatre in Kielce, and Robert Jaworski, Mayor of the Municipality and Town of Chęciny.

The prizes were sponsored by: the Stefan Żeromski Theatre in Kielce (book prizes, notebooks, key rings, and other items, as well as tickets for performances and for guided tours of the theatre), the Witold Gombrowicz Provincial Public Library in Kielce (books and bookmarks), the Stefan Karski *Kubuś* Puppet and Actor Theatre in Kielce (invitations and publications), the Museum of Toys and Play (invitations for a visit), the National Museum in Kielce (invitations and publications), the Gustaw Herling-Grudziński Provincial Pedagogical Library in Kielce (puzzles), the Faculty of Humanities at Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce (hearts, mobile phone stands, water bottles, lanyards, T-shirts, rucksacks, bags and other items), the Municipality and Town of Chęciny (magnets, pencil cases, books), Prof. Marta Bolińska and Agnieszka Dolecka, MA (diplomas and sweets).

Following the official part of the event, the winners, recipients of honourable mentions, teachers and parents, were all able to visit the University Library's storerooms – which are not normally open to the public – as well as the research rooms and reading rooms, with their extensive book collections. The pupils also had the chance to try their hand at being journalists in a radio and television studio and to record their own broadcast (Media and Promotion Centre at the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce: Radio Fraszka and University TV). Many of the participants also took part in workshops incorporating elements of thalassotherapy. An exhibition of the competition entries in the Edmund Niziurski Room and a set of designs specially created for the workshops (including a fishing net, a sailing boat, a lighthouse, and a steering wheel from a pirate ship), helped spark the imagination and generate ideas. During the workshops, participants used drama techniques and took part in art sessions. The workshops were led by two third-year students of Polish language studies (first-cycle programmes), Oliwia Piwowarczyk and Zuzanna Kozak.



Announcement of the results of *The Secrets of Mr N.* 2nd National Literary and Art Competition. *Photo from project archive (website)*

Event coverage available on the website:

- https://ilij.ujk.edu.pl/niziurski2025/
- https://ilij.ujk.edu.pl/niziurski2025/index.php/konkursy-2/
- https://ilij.ujk.edu.pl/niziurski2025/index.php/ciekawostki/

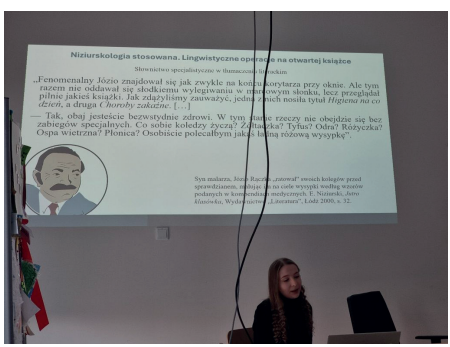
Summary – the lasting effects and social significance of the project

The year 2025, designated as the Year of Edmund Niziurski in Kielce, was a time of inspiring initiatives dedicated to commemorating and deepening reflection on the work of one of the most important writers in 20th-century Polish youth literature.

The *Gallery of Characters. Map of Places. To Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary of his Birth* project, organised by the Institute of Literary Studies and Linguistics at the Jan Kochanowski University, was a multifaceted initiative that served as a platform for academic dialogue, practical workshops, creative education, inspiring intergenerational encounters, and publications with national and international reach.

The project was a wide-ranging artistic, educational and scientific initiative. Through the commitment of many partners, participants, and contributors – from school pupils and university students to distinguished researchers – we successfully created a series of events that not only commemorated the centenary of Edmund Niziurski's birth, but also helped expand research into his work, revitalised interest in his books and deepened the dialogue between several generations of readers.

Book excerpts worth revisiting



Book excerpts in the debate. *Photo from project archive (website)*

Literary (and other) excerpts

'That's not at all how I imagined Łysogóry [*lit. The Bald Mountains*], said Kornel. They don't look bald at all. Where are the stone runs?'

'You won't be able to see them from here,' replied Pirydor. 'They're on the northern slopes. On Łysica and Łysa Góra.'

'You meant to say Łysica, also known as Łysa Góra,' Kornel corrected him.

'Be quiet, don't embarrass yourself,' whispered Pirydor, nudging him in the side. 'Or the Immature Green One will hear us and give us a lecture. Łysica is the first hill on the left and the highest in these mountains, at 611 metres above sea level, whilst Łysa Góra, also known as Święty Krzyż, is the last one to the east, on our right. It is the second largest. It is 593 metres high.'

Kornel felt a little bit embarrassed and stopped sharing his thoughts. It was only when they began to hike their way up Łysa Góra that he couldn't resist making a sarcastic remark. 'What kind of a mountain is it, you can drive a car up here.'

'Don't be rude to the old lady,' muttered Pirydor, 'it's a very old mountain, that's why it's been worn down by time. It dates back to the Palaeozoic era.'

When they reached the summit, everyone was overcome by an understandable sense of excitement. The realisation that they were just a step away from a great discovery even rubbed off on Polipirydion. Although a magnificent view of the famous Świętokrzyskie Monastery stretched out before them, the bearded young man decided not to try to persuade Joanna to visit the historic sites this time; instead, having parked the car near the new television tower, he joined the rest of the group without saying a word.

(E. Niziurski, *Klub włóczykijów czyli trzynaście przygód stryja Dionizego*, Siedmioróg, Wrocław 1990, p. 199).



Literary excerpts in a multisensory form. *Photo from project archive*

The quartzite boulder fields seemed endless. They stretched one after another, separated by zigzags of fir trees battered by the winds and stunted rowans.

'Well, I suppose this time we are the last ones,' gasped Kornel, panting, as he looked at the dark wall of fir trees that marked the edge of the bleak stone run.

However, when they reached the trees, Pirydor laughed menacingly.

'What are you laughing at?' gasped Kornel.

'Have a look! There's one more,' said Pirydor.

Indeed, beyond the fir trees, slightly off to one side, another boulder field could be seen.

'What a hellish mountain!' groaned Kornel. 'It's really huge, even though it doesn't look it!'

'Yes, it's steep on this side and has a considerable relative height. I reckon it's bigger than 'Pekin' in Warsaw,' muttered Pirydor, before adding 'Don't rush, or the boulders will come down!'

(E. Niziurski, *Klub włóczykijów czyli trzynaście przygód stryja Dionizego*, Siedmioróg, Wrocław 1990, p. 200).

'I'm afraid the boys… might have disturbed the boulder field and caused a rockslide…' whispered Joanna.

Dionizy and Polipirydion exchanged terrified glances and, without saying a word, rushed towards the lower fields. Joanna rushed after them.

When they finally reached the foot of the last boulder field, there was complete silence. There was no sign of Kornel and Pirydor anywhere. And there was no sign of a disaster. They walked on, along the edge of the forest, looking around anxiously.

'And yet these rocks seem to have been moved,' said Polipirydion, pointing to a few boulders lying beneath the trees. They seem to be a different colour and are damp…'

'Yes, they look as if they've been turned the other way round,' said Joanna. 'And here, look! Freshly crushed berries!

(E. Niziurski, *Klub włóczykijów czyli trzynaście przygód stryja Dionizego*, Siedmioróg, Wrocław 1990, p. 202).

Straight after breakfast, they set off for Czerwona Góra. It was a low, wooded hill on the Bolechowice ridge, right beside the main road. They drove a little further along the forest road and, having left the car by a disused quarry, continued on their way along the trail leading to the very summit. They then set off in a north-westerly direction. […]

They measured fifteen feet from the depression, almost four and a half metres, and began digging up the forest turf, but things looked rather hopeless. Everywhere, just beneath the thin layer of soil, there was solid limestone bedrock.

(E. Niziurski, *Klub włóczykijów czyli trzynaście przygód stryja Dionizego*, Siedmioróg, Wrocław 1990, p. 253).



Painting stones, or, A colourful stone run, created by the pupils. *Photo from project archive*

Dionizy realised that no force could now drive them out of the cave, and he waved his hand in resignation. The chasm dropped steeply downwards. Water seeped constantly from its chalky white-yellow and pinkish walls. Thin streams joined together at the bottom and flowed off somewhere downstream. Before long, the ceiling of the corridor had dropped so low that they had to crawl on their knees for a dozen or so metres. At last, they found themselves in an empty cave, enclosed on all sides. […]

'Look, the water's flowing further down.'

Following its path, they reached a corner blocked by a pile of boulders and stones.

'There must be a passage here.' […] they entered a second, much larger cave. That one really was brilliant. Intricately carved stalactites hung from the high ceiling like daggers. They shimmered in a rainbow of colours in the light of the torch. Only some of them, where the ceiling hung lowest, looked as though they were smudged.

(E. Niziurski, *Klub włóczykijów czyli trzynaście przygód stryja Dionizego*, Siedmioróg, Wrocław 1990, p. 258).



Excerpts for the road, or, Set out into the world with Niziurski. *Photo from project archive*

Papers and publications

2025

- Marta Bolińska, *Rok Niziurskiego w Kielcach*, Nowy Głos Akademicki 2025, no. 2, p. 48-49.
- Marta Bolińska, *100th Anniversary of the Birth of Edmund Nizhursky National Academic Conference* : *Gallery of Images. Map of Locations*, Dzâlo 2025, R. 13, z. 32,

s. 1-5 (*100-годишнина от рождението на Едмунд Нижурски Общополска научна конференция – Галерия от образи. Карта на местата*).

- Arkadiusz Luboń, Stanisław Uliasz, *Osobliwe przypadki metaliteratury. Literatura i literaci jako wątek tematyczny w twórczości Edmunda Niziurskiego*, Studia Filologiczne UJK 2025, vol. 38, p. 45-62.
- Piotr Boliński, Bogusz Boliński, *Undesirable behaviour towards staff (based on selected works by Edmund Niziurski) in the context of legal protection and proposed changes to statutory definitions found in the Labour Code*, Studia Filologiczne UJK 2025, vol. 38, p. 135-146.

2026

- June 4th-5th 2026 – Conference at the Faculty of Modern Languages of the University of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Veliko Tarnovo (Bulgaria), during which Agnieszka Miernik, Ph.D., JKU Professor (Department of Polish Literature, ILSL, JKU in Kielce) and Marta Bolińska, Ph.D., JKU Professor (Department of Cultural Studies, ILSL, JKU in Kielce) presented the work of Edmund Niziurski in a talk entitled *PISARZ W CENTRUM UWAGI. ROK EDMUNDA NIZIURSKIEGO W KIELCACH JAKO FORMA UPAMIĘTNIENIA TWÓRCZOŚCI ZNANEGO POLAKA* [The Writer in the Spotlight. The Year of Edmund Niziurski in Kielce as a way of commemorating the work of the renowned Pole] *See the programme at https://www.uni-vt.bg/bul/pages/?zid=3&page=8028/*
- On July the 9th, 2026, a master's thesis defence on the work of Niziurski, entitled *RECEPCJA PROZY EDMUNDA NIZIURSKIEGO W ŚWIADOMOŚCI WSPÓŁCZESNYCH SENIORÓW* [The reception of Edmund Niziurski's prose in the mentality of today's senior citizens], took place at ILSL, the Jan Kochanowski University. The thesis was written by Rozalia Urbanik, BA, under the academic supervision of Zbigniew Trzaskowski, JKU Professor, from the Department of Cultural Studies. The academic reviewer was Marta Bolińska, JKU Professor, chair of the *Gallery of Characters. Map of Places. To Edmund Niziurski on the 100th Anniversary of his Birth* National Academic Conference.
- A multi-author monograph – *IN SEARCH OF TRACES OF MEMORY. Various Figures of Return in Circulation (Not Only) in Literature*, ed. Marta Bolińska (with the collaboration of A. Kobiałka), Kraków 2026.
- A multi-author monograph – *PRZECHOWANE. NIEZAPOMNIANE. PRZYWRÓCONE. Pamięci Edmunda Niziurskiego i Jana Pacławskiego*, ed. Marta Bolińska (with the collaboration of Aleksandra Kobiałka), Kraków 2026.

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GALLERY OF CHARACTERS. Map of Places.
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Ministerstwo Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego
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