



From the Bookshelf

How Languages Saved Me: A Polish Story of Survival

By Tadeusz Haska and Stefanie Naumann

"When I was arrested my whole world crumbled. I knew that leaders of political parties had been arrested, and never heard from again. My only chance at survival was to find a way to escape from the jail."

— Excerpt, Tadeusz "Tad" Haska

Orphaned in Poland at the age of thirteen, Tadeusz "Tad" Haska survived World War II on the run, narrowly evading the Nazis every step of the way. After the war, he daringly escaped jail by the Soviet Secret Police, fled to Sweden and launched an elaborate plan to smuggle his wife in a coffin on an all-male naval ship. Discover how Tad's knowledge of nine languages helped him survive in the face of unspeakable adversity.

Stefanie Naumann, granddaughter of the book's co-author, is a Professor of Management in the Eberhardt School of Business at University of the Pacific, where she has taught for 20 years. She earned her Ph.D. from Louisiana State University and has published over 30 journal articles. Also, she is a 20+ year member of the Academy of Management, a lifetime member of the Polish American Genealogical Society of America, and has earned her awards for her research, teaching, and service.



Stefanie Naumann, Author

Note: Naumann's book recently earned First Place in the 2019 Royal Dragonfly Book Awards in two categories: historical nonfiction and biography/memoir/autobiography.

Tadeusz Haska was born in 1919 in Mikołajki, Poland, and died in Monterey, California, in 2012. Orphaned at the age of 13, he used his knowledge of nine languages to survive World War II. He later immigrated to the U.S. during 1949, where he earned his Ph.D. at University of California, Berkeley in Linguistics in his ninth language—English. He taught, and served as chairman, in the Polish Department at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA for 35 years. His work was featured on the TV program *The Big Picture*.



Tadeusz Haska, Author

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