I would like to say thank you to all the authors sending their correspon-
dence and articles to the “Corner for Everybody” (“Kącik dla
Wszystkich”). For such plain people like myself, who can hardly read and
barely know how to sign their names, the “Corner” is like food for souls
and minds. The “Corner” is a school for us. Each week one can under-
stand and learn something new.

Those who write to the “Corner” express various opinions on God. Because God knows about everything and, no doubt, reads Ameryka-Echo,
I wonder what He really thinks about those “Corner” writers. I think that
those religious and anti-religious letters put God into good mood. Surely
He finds the writers to the “Corner” entertaining, and after they die He’ll
give them the best spots in Heavens, because they had courage to express
their views.

This letter came to Ameryka-Echo in 1953 from Emmet, Idaho, from a
Polish-American reader. He belonged to the vast and devoted following
of Ameryka-Echo, one of the most popular Polish language weeklies in the
United States. The “Corner for Everybody,” to which the letter referred, was
a regular section of the newspaper, which printed letters from readers from
1922 until 1969. The “Corner” was the largest of the several sections fea-
tured in Ameryka-Echo, which promoted interaction between readers and

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editors and among readers themselves. Throughout the three decades of the greatest popularity of the “Corner,” from the 1930s through the 1950s, the “Corner” published an average of 400 letters a year. The experiment of *Ameryka-Echo*, which gave such a considerable amount of space to its readers’ letters, is unprecedented among the ethnic press of the same period. Almost all ethnic newspapers and journals did include, in one form or another, some correspondence from their readers, but their volume, character, and freedom can hardly be compared.²

Letters to the editor sections of any newspaper are the creation of three distinctive groups: readers of the newspaper, readers who write to the newspaper, and editors of the newspaper. All three groups remain in an intimate and complex relationship with each other, but most of the time it is impossible to re-create its nuances and intensity for lack of sources: the original correspondence with editors of ethnic newspapers is rarely preserved. Consequently, we are faced with a kind of Bermuda Triangle, which forever swallows information about the interactions among those who read, who wrote, and who edited immigrant letters published in the press. Only seldom and by sheer good luck are we faced with an opportunity to explore the depth of this Bermuda Triangle and to recover original letters, including those portions of the correspondence which never made it to print. Fortunately for us, the *Ameryka-Echo’s* original immigrant letters for the 1940s and 1950s remain preserved in the manuscript collection of the Paryski Publishing Company, housed at the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota, United States.

*Ameryka-Echo* was the sole creation of one man who was as much outstanding as controversial: Antoni Alfred Paryski.³ Paryski, born in Poland in 1865, was the son of Polish farmers. In 1883, at the age of eighteen, he left Poland for America. He worked a string of jobs as a printer, an editor, and a reporter for several Polish-language and some American newspapers. In 1889, Paryski started his own newspaper, *Ameryka*, in Toledo, Ohio, and in 1902, combined it with an older one, *Echo*, to become *Ameryka-Echo*. By 1907, Paryski enlarged his enterprise through the purchase and merger of about 40 different publishing houses, creating his own press and publishing empire, and acquiring the reputation of being the “Polish Hearst.”

Paryski’s success was a result of his exceptional organizational abilities and business talents. He was the first to introduce modern commercial techniques into the Polish-American press, including American yellow press strategies. He established a prosperous publishing house that put out more than 2,000 titles, over 8 million copies in all by the mid-1930s. His specially trained agents moved around the country promoting his newspapers and books, selling products from the glove factory he owned, and offering banking services through his savings company.⁴