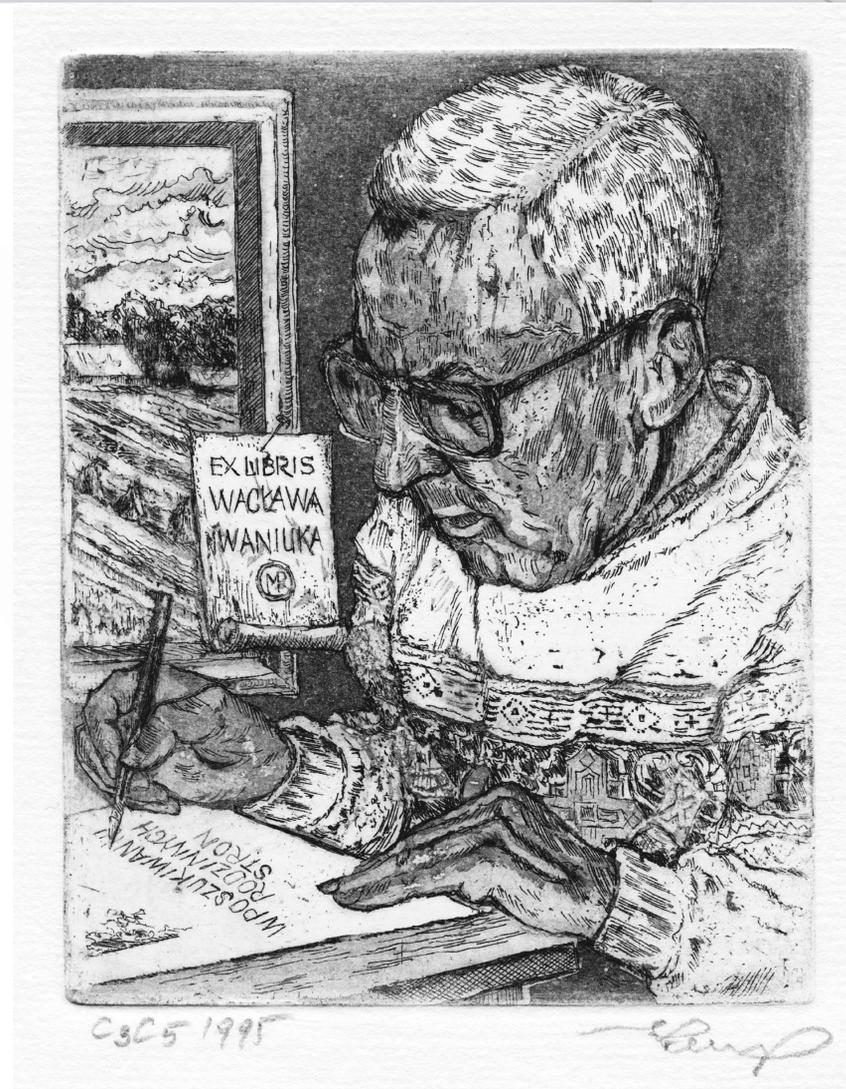
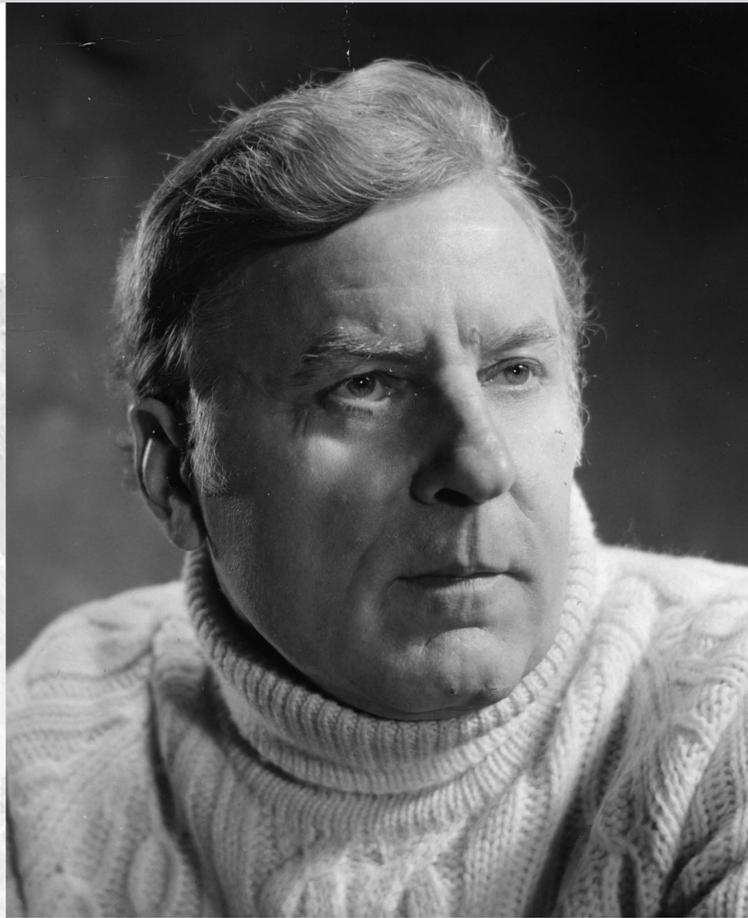


# Waclaw (Walter) Iwaniuk

(1912-2001)

Poet, critic, essayist, translator



Before the Second World War, Waclaw Iwaniuk studied law and economics at the Free University in Warsaw. As a student, he frequently contributed to literary magazines and published two volumes of poetry.

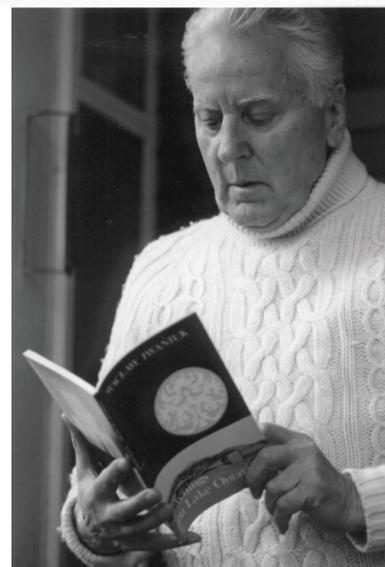
The outbreak of war found him in Argentina where he was undergoing consular training. He left for France, where Polish Armed Forces were formed, and fought with the Polish Mountain Brigade at Narvik, Norway. Returning to France just before it capitulated, he tried to reach Britain through Spain, but was interned by the Spanish authorities. Released in 1943, he completed his journey and joined the First Polish Armoured Division, with which he fought in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

Iwaniuk immigrated to Canada soon after being demobilized in 1948, settling for life in Toronto, where he worked at the Swift meat packing plant, then at Eaton's department store. In 1951, he became an interpreter, first in the municipal courts and later for the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General.

Iwaniuk played a prominent role in the Polish literary and artistic émigré circles. He was among the founders of the Dragon's Den fraternity, the Polish Writers' Association of Canada, and the Polish Club. He was also active in the Polish Combatants' Association, and served as president of the Polish Canadian Publishing Fund.

Because he frequently denounced the communist regime in Poland, Iwaniuk's writing was long banned in his country of origin. Though deeply influenced by the trauma of war, the alienation of exile, and carrying a catastrophic vision of the future, his poetry often evokes as well memories of his homeland, steeped in gentle nostalgia. He has twenty-eight published volumes to his name, including two in English; highly appreciated are also his translations of American poetry.

Top right picture – Waclaw Iwaniuk's ex libris designed by Roman Mucha (1995)  
All photos – Henryk Wojcik archive



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