

1116-D1-98

**Emelie A Kenney\*** ([kenney@siena.edu](mailto:kenney@siena.edu)), Department of Mathematics, Siena College, Loudonville, NY 12211. *Polish Women in Mathematics During the Nazi Occupation*. Preliminary report.

Rasiowa, Krygowska, Hosiasson-Lindenbaum, Szmydt—these names may be unfamiliar to many of us. Each name, however, represents a person who contributed to mathematics, mathematics education, or both, and did so under seemingly impossible conditions. Who were they? First, we describe what is called The Flying University, which began operating without the knowledge of forces occupying Poland around the turn of the 20th century in order to provide educational opportunities to women and the poor (A later version operated around the late 1970s during the period of Soviet domination of Poland.). The second incarnation of organized clandestine education arose within the vast underground resistance, the largest and most sophisticated in Europe, in Nazi-occupied Poland during World War II. In this dangerous environment, many mathematicians—male and female—studied, taught courses, gave exams, or prepared their students or themselves for university degrees at all levels, all in secret, all under threat of concentration camps or death if caught. In this context, we discuss a number of women who, through their daring efforts during and immediately following the war, contributed to mathematics, mathematics education, and the re-emergence of mathematical life in Poland. (Received July 22, 2015)