



# Antoni A. Paryski, “The Polish Hearst”

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

## Introduction

Antoni A. Paryski (1864-1935) was a Polish-American newspaper publisher and businessman. Born in Bocheń, Poland, Paryski immigrated to the United States in 1883. He lived and worked in several cities, primarily in the Midwest, as a typesetter, freelance journalist and newspaper editor over the next six years before settling in Toledo, Ohio, in 1889. That same year he established the *Ameryka*, later known as the *Ameryka Echo*, one of the most successful and widely-distributed Polish-language newspapers of its time. Paryski was liberal, pro-labor (briefly), anticlerical and a proponent of Polish Positivism, a movement emphasizing the importance of self-education and learning from others in the community. The “Paryski Empire” encompassed several newspapers and magazines, a publishing house which produced more than 2,000 titles, and a financial institution. Paryski’s business success and resulting wealth earned him the nickname “The Polish Hearst”, and he was also a philanthropist who contributed to relief efforts, war funds and benefit societies. Until his death in 1935, Paryski remained active in his businesses and influential in the Polish-American community.

## Important Dates

- July 11, 1864: Antoni Alfred Paryski (Panek) is born in Bocheń, Poland, to working class peasants.
- 1883: Paryski immigrates to the United States from Warsaw, Poland, and initially moves to Michigan.
- 1886: Paryski is briefly employed by the Knights of Labor as a full-time paid organizer.
- September 21, 1889: Paryski establishes the *Ameryka* in Toledo, Ohio.
- 1892: The first regional edition of the *Ameryka* is established in Detroit, Michigan.
- 1902: Paryski purchases the *Buffalo Echo*, merging it with the *Ameryka* to form the *Ameryka Echo*.
- 1907: Paryski Publishing Company moves into newly-built, modern facilities, employing 130 people.
- 1909-1910: During the “Mierzyński affair” labor dispute, sales agents boycott subscription collection for the *Ameryka Echo*.
- 1920: Paryski becomes president of the Polish American Commerce Club.
- April 23, 1935: Paryski dies unexpectedly, and his empire is inherited by his family.

## Suggested Search Strategies

- Try combining “Antoni Paryski”, “Paryski” or “Paryskiego” with the following Polish terms as an “all” word search, in proximity or as phrases: wydawnictwo (publishing house), słownik (dictionary), książka (book), katolicki (Catholic), oświata (education).
- Limit your search by date to find information about specific events.
- Use an online translation service to translate search terms and articles between Polish and English.

## Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- [“Rosiński dostał ‘lanie’”](#) *Ameryka* (Toledo, OH), October 4, 1890, Image 1, col. 4.
- [“Nasza Przeszłość”](#) *Ameryka w Toledo i Kuryer Clevelandski* (Toledo, OH), May 11, 1892, Image 2, col. 2.
- [“Antoni A. Paryski”](#) *Ameryka Echo* (Toledo, OH), December 27, 1902, Image 9.
- [“Oświata”](#) *Ameryka Echo* (Toledo, OH), March 7, 1903, Image 1, col. 2-3.
- [“Za Pół Ceny” \(ad\)](#) *Ameryka Echo* (Toledo, OH), November 12, 1904, Image 1, col. 2-5.
- [“Komitet Stanowy ‘Dnia Pułaskiego’”](#) *Jedność Polek* (Cleveland, Ohio), Image 4, col. 3.