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In the autumn of 1987, I was in residence at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, when Jurek and Justyna appeared and moved into the same Folger housing where I and others had apartments. I had met Jurek once or twice before at Shakespeare conferences, but I can't say that then I knew him very well. All that was about to change in the ensuing months, as we spent more and more time together, especially after the Folger Reading Room closed at 5 o'clock. We spent many evenings—all three of us—discussing a wide variety of subjects, and often joined together for dinner. That is when I discovered what excellent cooks Jurek and Justyna were (I did my best when it was my turn in our exchanges, but my fare was not nearly as interesting and appetizing as theirs, I must admit). After dinner we usually lingered to talk about life in Poland, about which I knew little, or about some of the countries we had visited. I learned from them how misleading and wrong so much about Polish anti-semitism actually was, and how heroic many Poles were, attempting—at great risk to themselves—to shelter and hide Jews during the Nazi occupation in World War Two. Those risks not only endangered entire families but often all occupants of the apartment houses in which they lived.

I also learned (what as a Shakespeare scholar I should have known) that English players in the early seventeenth century visited and performed plays, including some of Shakespeare's, in Gdansk. The plays were staged in what was otherwise a fencing school building. Jurek was extremely interested in rebuilding that theatre and already had begun developing plans for it with various architects.

Those plans eventually evolved into something quite marvelous—a large, versatile theatre located where the original had been. Even before the theatre was built, Jurek had begun the summer Shakespeare festival, during which he brought many different acting companies from various parts of the world, not only from Europe but as far away as China. I attended a good many of those performances over the years and wrote glowingly about them in the Shakespeare Newsletter. Of course, a number of the productions were staged by Polish companies, but whoever was the director, the plays were never dull; in fact, the festival became a good place to see new versions of Shakespeare's plays. I remember how Jurek enjoyed telling me how tame so many Anglo-American productions were. Of course, by comparison with the shows Jurek brought to Gdansk, he was right. In the meanwhile, as if he did not have much else to do, Jurek taught English literature, particularly Shakespeare, as a professor at the University of Gdansk.

But mostly I remember what a warm and generous individual Jurek was. After our stints at the Folger Library, I invited him and Justyna to my home in Delaware and arranged for him to teach in our summer session at the University of Delaware. By living with my wife and me, he and Justyna were able to save most of his stipend to help finance the house they wished to build, which was larger than the flat they were then in and could accommodate guests. Luckily, we arranged a number of other such visits when Jurek would stay with us, teach at our University, and (I have to add) took turns again making dinner. When their new house was built, my wife and I enjoyed visiting them, staying in what they liked to call "the Halio suite," and I sometimes gave lectures at his university. For many years fortunately we were able to exchange those visits and get know the Limons more and more; in fact, we got along so well we felt very much like family.

I will miss Jurek terribly now that he is no longer with us, but I hope I'll be able to visit with Justyna again and reminisce about all the good times we shared. They were some of the best times in my life.