



HIPPOCRENE BOOKS, INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Priti Gress

pgress@hippocrenebooks.com

212.685.4371 ext3

SPIRIT OF PLACE: The Roadside Shrines of Poland

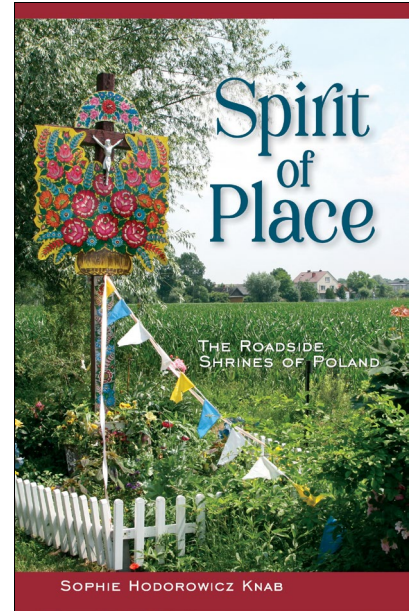
“They are works of art that speak to the creative spirit that once stirred within a heart to carve a statue, to gather stones to build a foundation, or gather words to form a poem or mix colors for a painting; they are messages from the past telling what at one time was important to this person, to this village, to a city block.”

—from the author’s Introduction

It is said that every country has its own *genus loci* or “spirit of place.” Poland’s distinct character can be found in the tens of thousands of roadside chapels, crosses and shrines that dot both its cities and countryside. A thousand years of Christianity, and the Polish Catholic tradition in particular, have left their mark on the country’s landscape. It is impossible not to notice the religious statues and little chapels that seem to be everywhere. Enter a courtyard in Warsaw or Kraków and discover a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary mounted on a pedestal with fresh flowers at her feet. Drive through a small town, and you’ll spy a niche under the eaves of a home containing a figure of the Sacred Heart of Jesus or a little wooden box on a tree holding a small image of Our Lady of Częstochowa. What are these objects? What do they mean? How did they come to be in this particular place? Why are they important?

Acclaimed Polish-American author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab explores the origins and purposes of these roadside shrines, examining the different types of shrines and the religious figures represented in them. Chapters are devoted to the artists and sculptors who created the shrines, the role these local shrines played in the annual holidays, customs and traditions of the community, and their role in everyday life as well as death. This survey of Poland’s roadside shrines is a unique lens through which the reader can learn about Polish history and culture.

Sophie Hodorowicz Knab is a noted Polish-American lecturer and author whose books include *Polish Customs, Traditions & Folklore*, *Polish Herbs, Flowers & Folk Medicine*, *Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook*, and *Wearing the Letter P: Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany*, all published by Hippocrene Books. She is a contributor to the Polish American Journal and the AmPol Eagle. She resides in Grand Island, NY. Visit her at SophieKnab.com



Pub Date: JANUARY 10, 2023

Hardcover & e-book available

5.5. x 8.5 • 178 pp

Color photographs throughout

ISBN 13: 978-0-7818-1434-8

\$24.95

How to Order:

Available at all major retailers and at hippocrenebooks.com

Hippocrene Books is distributed to the trade by Two Rivers, an Ingram brand.

For U.S. Customer Service, please contact:

Ingram Publisher Services / Jackson

210 American Drive

Jackson, TN 38301

(t) 800-343-4499

ipsjacksonorders@ingramcontent.com