

# amsterdam marketing

## PRESS FEATURE

### Poland in Amsterdam

**Amsterdam and Poland have age-old ties. The majority of Amsterdam's 17<sup>th</sup>-century ring of canals was built using oak posts from Poland; the historic canal-side houses in Polish Gdansk were built using Dutch bricks. Amsterdam ships loaded these bricks for voyages to Gdansk and brought back grain from Poland. Nowadays, Polish people consider Amsterdam to be a favourite place to live and work in.**

### **Poolsche Coffijhuis, later turning into Hotel Polen (Poland)**

In 1781, the Kalverstraat, corner Papenbroeksteeg, was the location of the Poolsche Coffijhuis (Polish Coffee House). This was later converted into hotel Polen. In 1941, the hotel had to change its name to Paleis Hotel by order of the German occupier. The hotel burnt down in 1977. A monument was erected on the Nieuwe Oosterbegraafplaats for the 33 victims.

### **Jurriaen Pool, 17<sup>th</sup>-century painter**

Jurriaen Pool (1666-1745) was a portrait painter with Polish roots. He grew up in the Kalverstraat Burgerweeshuis, an orphanage, in Amsterdam. He married Rachel Ruysch in 1693, one of the few female artists of the time, one of the reasons why she was to become more famous than her husband. Both were buried in Amsterdam's Nieuwe Kerk. The Amsterdam Museum displays a number of Jurriaen Pool's paintings.

[amsterdammuseum.nl](http://amsterdammuseum.nl)

### **Abraham Krasnapolsky from 'Beautiful Poland'**

In 1865, Abraham W. Krasnapolsky (1838-1912), son of Polish immigrants, bought the Nieuwe Poolsche Koffiehuis at the Warmoesstraat 181. In 1883, he added a hotel under the name Krasnapolsky to his business. The Wintertuin (Winter garden) with its enormous plants and palms under a glass dome was to become famous and is still being used today. The hotel was one of the first buildings in Amsterdam to be fitted with electric lighting. Krasnapolsky means 'Beautiful Poland'.

[nh-hotels.nl/hotel/nh-amsterdam-grand-hotel-krasnapolsky](http://nh-hotels.nl/hotel/nh-amsterdam-grand-hotel-krasnapolsky)

### **Tuschinski Theatre**

The Tuschinski Theatre was built by order of Abraham Tuschinski and is considered to be one of the most beautiful cinemas in the world. When it

opened in 1921, the interior was a sensation. Tuschinski was born in Poland and the Tuschinski Theatre was his dream come true. The impressive carpet in the foyer has a Polish eagle depicted on it, a tribute to Tuschinski's native country. The circumstances concerning his death in his native country are tragic: he died in concentration camp Auschwitz. [pathe.nl/bioscoop/tuschinski](http://pathe.nl/bioscoop/tuschinski)

### **Polish school**

In refugee society Het Leeuwenpoortje at Prinsenhofsteeg 5 a school was opened in 1959 for the children of Polish people living in Amsterdam. The majority of them had come to the city by way of the south of the Netherlands in 1944 as part of the Polish armoured division. Many of these Polish soldiers married Dutch girls.

### **Decorative stone tablets**

#### Pool

A decorative stone tablet on the façade of the warehouse at Kerkstraat 322 depicts a man with a turban in exotic dress. His hand rests on a cane. Above him is the year 1688, below him the word POOL.

#### Breslaw

On the façade of the house at Keizersgracht 145 you can find a stone tablet with the word Breslaw. The house was built around 1720 by Jacques Grijpspeert, who was from Breslau: now called Wrocław.

#### Polish king's crown

The premises at Singel 45 is adorned with the Polish king's crown on top of the façade.

#### Polish Kamay

Spuistraat 42 has a decorative stone tablet 'Poolse Kamay': nine men rowing a square vessel. A 'kamay' was a river boat with a house in the middle that was used to transport grain.

### **Jewish immigrants from Poland**

A family name frequently heard in Amsterdam is Polak, to specify that someone is from Poland. In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century many Jews from Germany and Poland settled in prosperous Amsterdam. Famous Amsterdam residents by the name of Polak include Henri Polak (1868-1943), socialist and chairman of the General Dutch Diamond Cutters League; Benjamin Polak (1917-1993), council member *and* general practitioner and Wim Polak, Amsterdam mayor from 1977-1983. In 2008,

the natural stone steps at the Amstel river, corner Nieuwe Prinsengracht, were named after former mayor Wim Polak.

### **Sklep Polski supermarket**

At the Van Woustraat 182D, Sklep Polski is located, or the Polish supermarket. Its owner is immigrant Maek Strzeszewski. This shop in the lively Pijp neighbourhood is stocked with Polish products ranging from *czzerwony* (beet soup) and *pierogi* (stuffed dough dumplings) to *zurek* (sauerkraut soup) and Polish sausage, and from Polish magazines to slippers.

### **Website for Polish people in the Netherlands**

Since 2008, there is a special website for Polish people in the Netherlands. This website is an initiative by the Stichting Nederlands Pools Huis in Duivendrecht: [dompolski.nl](http://dompolski.nl). This foundation aims to help new Polish immigrants settle in the Netherlands as well and as quickly as possible. There is, for instance, information available on courses on language and integration.

**Note to the editor:** The information may be freely referenced or copied if the source is credited: [www.iamsterdam.com](http://www.iamsterdam.com). The above information is subject to change and Amsterdam Marketing accepts no responsibility for inaccuracies in published information.

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Photographs and texts for media: [mediabank.iamsterdam.com](http://mediabank.iamsterdam.com)  
Amsterdam Marketing: [www.iamsterdam.com](http://www.iamsterdam.com)  
Press Office: [iamsterdam.com/media-centre](http://iamsterdam.com/media-centre)

**For more press information and images:**

Amsterdam Marketing Press Office: [pressoffice@iamsterdam.com](mailto:pressoffice@iamsterdam.com)  
T. +31 (0)20 702 62 65

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**About Amsterdam Marketing**

Amsterdam Marketing is the city marketing organisation of the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area, active in the fields of promotion, information, research and services. Our ambition is to put this region on the map as one of the five most attractive metropolitan areas in Europe for its residents, visitors, businesses and influential groups. Under the motto "I amsterdam", we present the region as a dynamic place to live and work, an attractive travel destination and a test market for innovation.