



Summer 2020

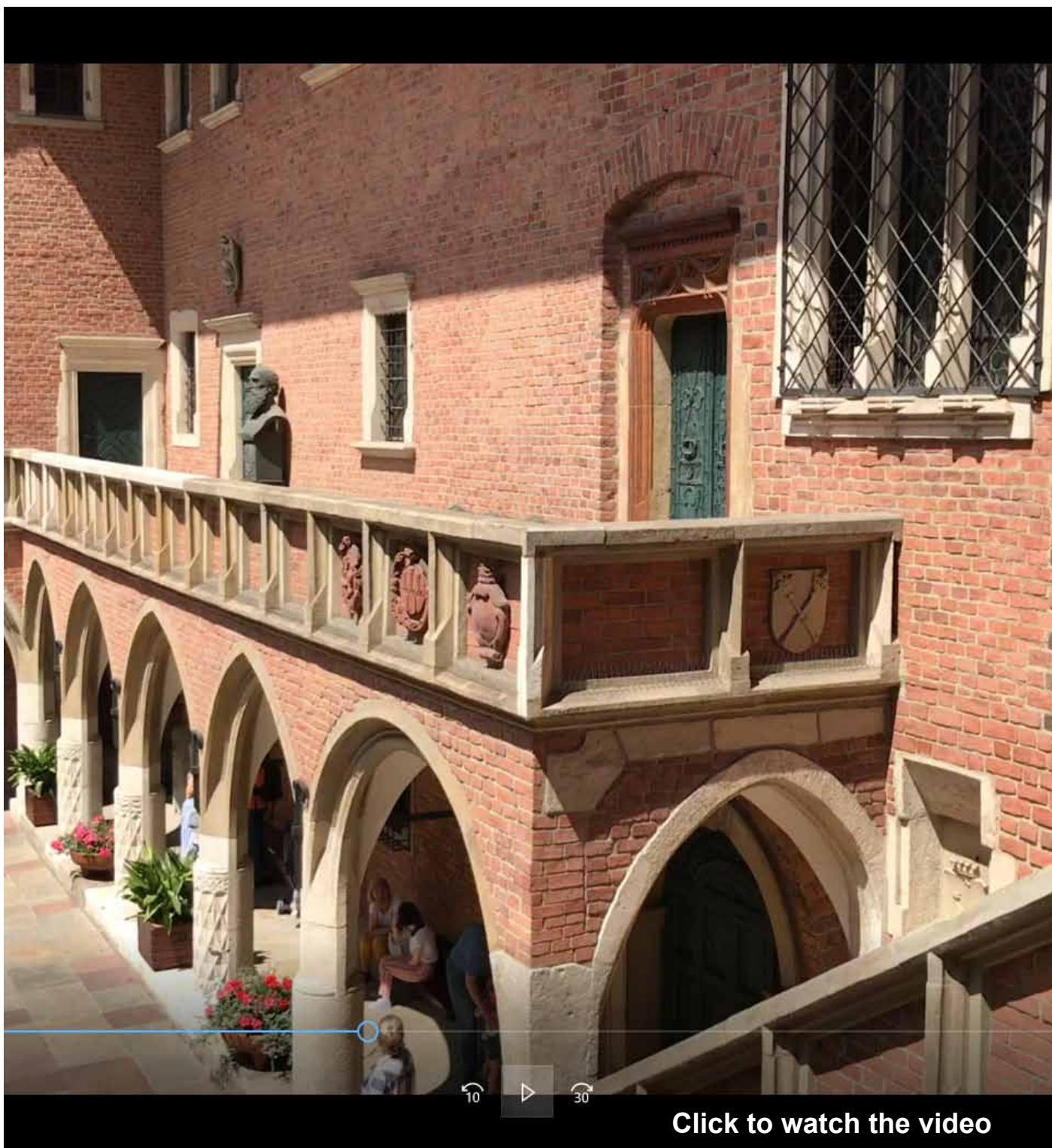
# ZOOM

in on america

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## AMERICAN TRACES IN KRAKOW



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In this issue: Jagiellonian University Museum Collegium Maius

Zoom in on America

# Jagiellonian University

In 1364, Polish King Casimir the Great obtained permission from Pope Urban V to open three faculties – law, medicine, and philosophy – and to ultimately found the first university in Poland. In medieval Europe, the pope's permission was required to establish a university. Yet for an institution to be recognized as a prestigious university, it was necessary to also have a Faculty of Theology. This was to be accomplished later. Before his death in 1370, King Casimir the Great thought about the best location for the Krakow Academy (later renamed the Jagiellonian University). It was located first on Wawel Hill, where he himself resided. Casimir also considered having houses built for the Krakow Academy in Kazimierz, a town he erected across the Vistula River from Krakow in 1335, but these plans fell through. The Krakow Academy had to wait three more decades to fully open its wings. Queen Jadwiga, who sat next on the throne, left all her jewelry and valuables for the restoration of the academy. She died prematurely in 1399 and her last will was soon executed. The queen's gift made it possible to obtain permission to open the fourth

faculty (theology). It was then, at the beginning of the 15th century, that the Academy received the quarters which now house the Jagiellonian University Museum, Collegium Maius. Back then, the building housed study rooms and living quarters for professors and students. The 15th century was the golden age for the university. Its eminent professors and strong reputation attracted students from all over Poland and from abroad. The most famous student of the Jagiellonian University is Nicolaus Copernicus, who studied there in 1491-1495. It is thrilling to think that Copernicus, one of the greatest giants of science, was pacing the picturesque gallery of gothic arcades topped by a light "crystal" vault and looking up at the sky from the cozy courtyard. The outside staircase within the courtyard leads to a door with a very decorative portal. A library in the past, it now houses the University Museum, which among other valuable exhibits, displays some very interesting objects connected to America and the United States. Let us explore them all today!

## The Two Globes

Considering the importance of astronomy for this university, it is no wonder that the museum has a collection of astronomical instruments, maps, and globes. Let us take a closer look at two of them. In the Museum Treasury we see the younger of the two, but one that belongs to the most precious collection of items, the Golden Jagiellonian Globe. It is not young at all, in fact, as it was made around 1510-1520. The Jagiellonian Globe is one of the world's oldest preserved globes on which America – a land discovered only a short time earlier – is marked. The first known map to depict the new continent was a map created in 1507 by German cartographer and scholar Martin Waldseemüller. On the Jagiellonian Globe, America is not marked precisely where it should be located, but the word "America" is clearly written. The globe, which measures just 13 cm in diameter, is actually contained within a clock. The whole instrument is quite complex. For those interested in how the mechanism was constructed and operated, here is a detailed description provided by the university: *An armillary sphere with a globe in the center and rings representing three astronomical coordinate systems. The external horizontal system is the basis of the entire instrument and consists of the horizon circle, two apex circles, two tropics and the circumpolar circles, and twenty-four hourly semi-circles.*

*The equatorial and ecliptic systems inside are moved by a clock mechanism hidden inside the globe. They are composed of: the ecliptic circle, two vertex circles passing through the solstice points and an equinox, the celestial equator, two tropic circles and two polar circles, and six*



Left: The Jagiellonian Globe. Photo: Grzegorz Zygiel, Right: a copy of the Behaim Globe at Jagiellonina University Museum Collegium Maius.

Photo Jacek Kumański

*ecliptic circles. The ecliptic is engraved with the names of the zodiac signs and a calendar divided into days and months. The position of the sun is marked on the ecliptic by a moving pointer. The device was hung on a ring, in the 18th century a three-legged base was added. The map of*



the Earth was described with fifty-three Latin geographical names. Meridians and parallels marked every 10°. The tropics and the polar circles are marked. The Prime Meridian passes through the island of Ferro. North America is not selected, and the South Pacific contains the continent described as *America noviter reperta*. It is the oldest known globe on Earth and bears the name America. The instrument was donated by Professor Jan Brożek (1585-1652) who purchased it in Italy or Innsbruck at the beginning of the 17th century. (Marcin Banaś)

The second globe that one can see in the museum is a copy of the so-called Behaim Globe named after its maker, German scientist and traveler Martin Behaim. Behaim made the globe in 1490-1492, the year when America

was discovered. Therefore, America is not depicted on the globe. Behaim received a commission from the Nuremberg City Council to make a globe, then-called "Erdapfel", or earth apple. It was a time-consuming project and a painstaking process to create it. The Behaim Globe is the oldest preserved Earth globe. Behaim incorporated all the geographic knowledge available at the time, but also enriched the globe with a pictorial narrative of his life and travels, including a visit to Africa. The globe shows an enlarged Eurasian continent and an empty ocean between Europe and Asia. From its creation until the early 16th century, the original Behaim Globe stood in a reception room in the Nuremberg town hall. Now, it is exhibited in the Museum in Nuremberg.

### A Collection of Old Banknotes

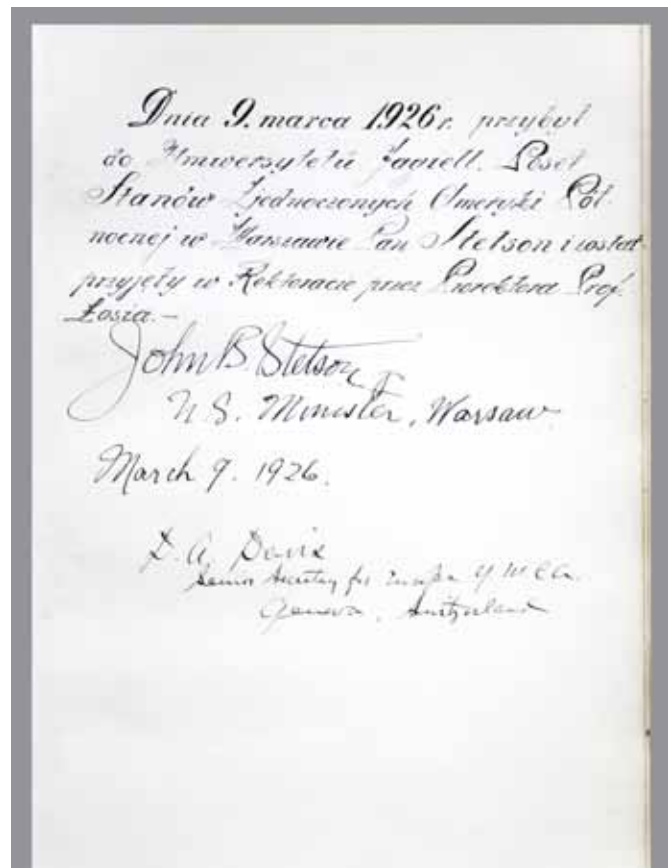
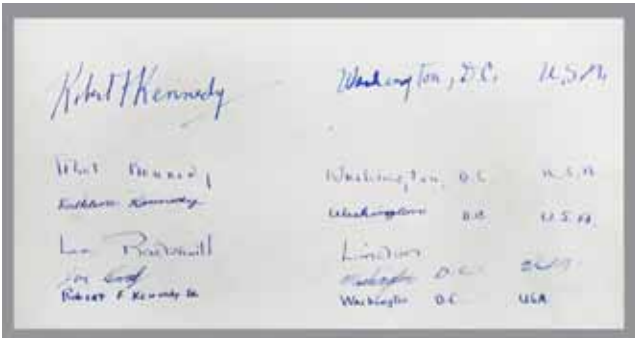
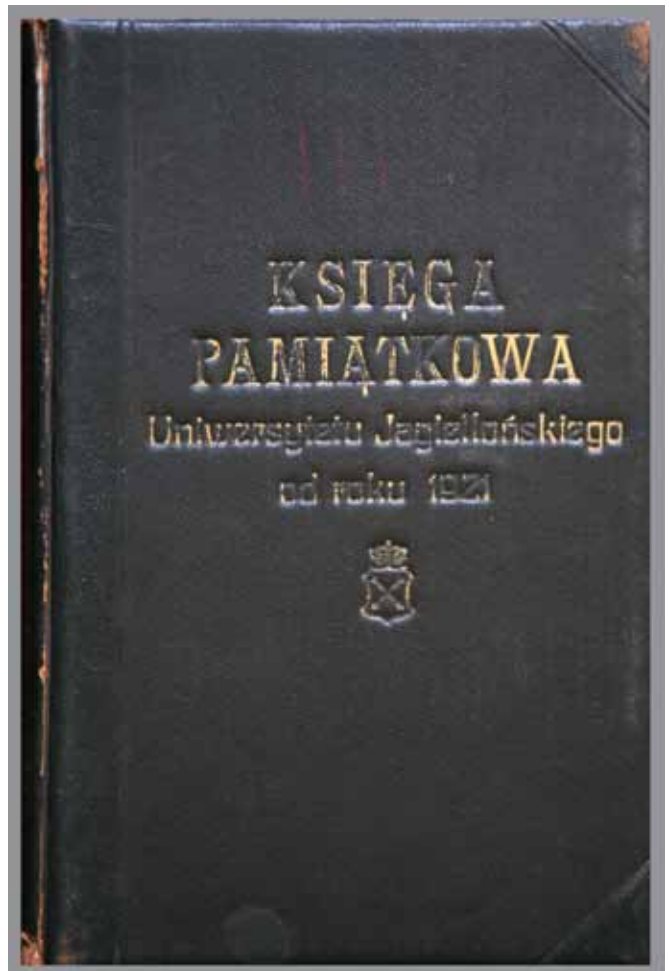
The Jagiellonian University Museum at Collegium Maius has a collection of banknotes of various denominations (such as shillings, dollars and more). The oldest of the banknotes are from the mid-18th century and were used in the former British colonies of Pennsylvania, Delaware,

Maryland and New Jersey, prior to the birth of the United States of America. The banknotes were a gift from Ignacy Domeyko, a 19th century Polish geologist, mineralogist, and educator.





## The Two Signatures



The year 1964 was an important year for the Jagiellonian University, as it marked the 600th anniversary of the institution. It was in this important year that the museum was visited by Robert F. Kennedy, who then held the position of the 64th U.S. Attorney General. Kennedy and his entourage signed the Jagiellonian University Museum's guest book.

In different guest book from 1926, we find another entry signed by an important American visitor, John B. Stetson Jr., who was an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Poland (the title now known as ambassador) from 1925 to 1929. John B. Stetson Jr. was an Airforce Captain in World War I. His father, John B. Stetson Sr. was an inventor and later a producer of cowboy hats – a high quality hat that gained enormous popularity and basically remains unchanged in its design until today. These western-style Stetson hats were worn by employees of the National Park Service, U.S. cavalry soldiers, and many U.S. Presidents.

Photos: Jacek Kumański

## Andrzej Wajda's Oscar

On display at the museum we see a famous Oscar statuette – the highest Academy Award for accomplishments in the film industry. Polish film director Andrzej Wajda was awarded the Academy Award in 2000 for “five decades of extraordinary film direction”. Andrzej Wajda (1926 - 2016) was an accomplished film and theatre director who received, in addition the Honorary Oscar, many other prestigious awards over the course of a career spanning five decades. They include the Palme d'Or, Honorary Golden Lion and Honorary Golden Bear Awards. He was known especially for his trilogy of war films including *Pokolenie* (1955), *Kanał* (1956)

and *Popiół i diament* (1958). Wajda's films chronicled Poland's political and social evolution and dealt with myths of Polish national identity. Four of his films have been nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film: *Ziemia obiecana* (1975), *Panny z Wilka* (1979), *Człowiek z żelaza* (1981) and *Katyń* (2007). The famous director entrusted the Statuette to the Jagiellonian University Museum.



Film director Andrzej Wajda, Photo AP Images



Above: Oscar Statuette awarded to Andrzej Wajda at Collegium Maius. Photo: Grzegorz Zygier, right: University rector Franciszek Ziejka is holding the Statuette. Courtesy of Jagiellonian University Museum Collegium Maius



## Two Apollo Missions



*Photos: above left: Photo of Earth with Neil Armstrong's signature, below: a bust of Copernicus at Collegium Maius, above: a portion of the heat shield from the Apollo 15 command module "Endeavour". Photos: Jacek Kumański*



Among its most cherished objects, the museum contains a photograph of the Earth, as seen from Space, with an inscription and a signature from the first man to stand on the Moon - Neil Armstrong. The words on the photograph are: "To the Copernicus Museum, Kraków, on the 500th birthday of a giant." The giant, of course, is Nicolaus Copernicus.

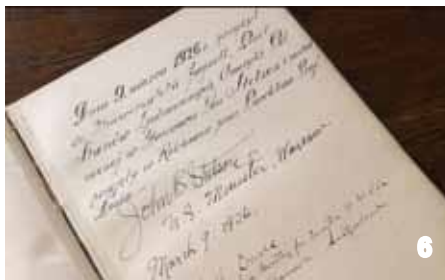
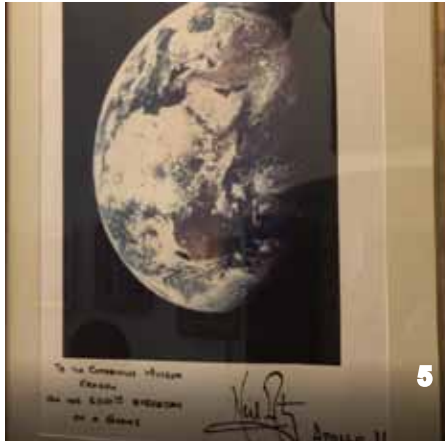
Another item of space memorabilia on display is a portion of the heat shield from the Apollo 15 command module "Endeavour," flown during the first extended lunar scientific exploration from July 26 to August 7, 1971. It was presented to the Jagiellonian University by the crew of the Apollo 15-- David R. Scott, Alfred M. Worden, and James B. Irvin on January 21, 1972.

**Link to the Museum**

# ACTIVITY PAGE

## ACTIVITY 1: READING and SPEAKING

Read the articles on pp. 2-6. Imagine that you are taking a few American friends on a tour of *Collegium Maius*. Tell them about the place and about the objects you see in the Jagiellonian University Museum.



SUMMER2020

TRIVIA QUESTION

Who was the 64th United States Attorney General?

Send the answer (with your home address) to:  
[KrakowAIRC@state.gov](mailto:KrakowAIRC@state.gov)

The 2nd, the 8th and the 12th sender of the correct answer will be awarded with a book prize.

Deadline September 30, 2020

May-June Answer:

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

The winners are:

Agnieszka from Krakow and Maria from Lima

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

The prizes will be sent to you by mail.



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[www.usinfo.pl/zoom/](http://www.usinfo.pl/zoom/)

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*A bust of Nicolaus Copernicus at Collegium Maius. Photo Jacek Kumański*