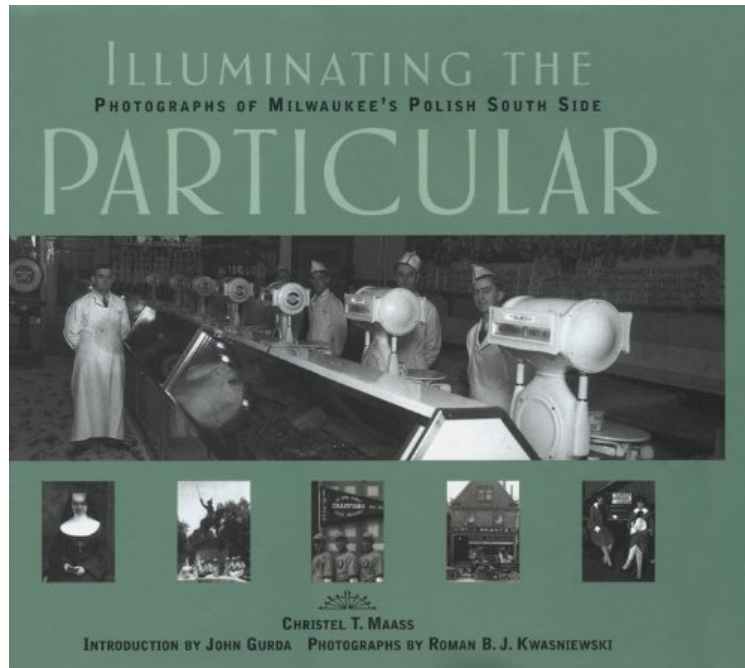


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## Illuminating the Particular: Photographs of Milwaukee's Polish South Side

*Christel T. Maass*

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#2597888 in Books Wisconsin Historical Society Press 2003-12-03  
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**Christel T. Maass : Illuminating the Particular: Photographs of Milwaukee's Polish South Side** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Illuminating the Particular: Photographs of Milwaukee's Polish South Side*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A beautiful tribute to the hard-working Polish immigrants who lived on ...By Milwaukee Gadget HoundA beautiful tribute to the hard-working Polish immigrants who lived on Milwaukee's South Side. This will be a Christmas gift to my cousins. We all grew up there.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful find!By BrianI was actually looking for another book and stumbled across this one. It was a wonderful find for a gift for my parents. Great pictures that brought back so many memories of their youth...a truly wonderful gift for anyone who's interested in Milwaukee's Polish history!5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A showcasing of Milwaukee's second largest ethnic groupBy Midwest Book ReviewThe collaborative effort of John Gurda (Seven-time winner of the Wisconsin Historical Society's "Award of Merit") and Christel T. Maass (Academic Librarian, Special Collections Department, Golda Meir Library, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), *Illuminating The Particular* is an impressive compilation of the photography of Roman B. J. Kwasniewski in a documentary celebration of the Polish American immigrant experience in Milwaukee, Wisconsin prior to the years of World War II. These were the critical pre-war years (1913 to 1947) were when the children and grandchildren of the Polish immigrant community in Milwaukee were transitioning and evolving into full fledged American citizens. A strongly recommended addition to personal, academic, and community library Wisconsin

History collections, *Illuminating The Particular* provides a superb visual showcasing of Milwaukee's second largest ethnic group and their distinctive community which developed and distinctively hallmarked Milwaukee's South Side.

Roman B.J. Kwasniewski, son of Polish immigrants, used his camera to document life in Milwaukee's Polish community during the early decades of the twentieth century. His images transform the particulars of everyday life at local businesses, in homes and classrooms, and at cultural, social, and recreational events into powerful depictions of the immigrant experience. With an introduction by well-known Milwaukee historian John Gurda, this book offers rare insight into the daily lives of a proud people struggling to maintain their heritage while living in a time of rapid change. While Kwasniewski's camera captured the sights and sounds of Milwaukee at the turn of the century from the perspective of a single ethnic group in a single neighborhood, his photographs resonate far beyond Milwaukee's Polish South Side. They illuminate the particulars of American life during the early decades of the twentieth century. "What we see, reflected in the distant mirror," says John Gurda, "is ourselves."

From the Publisher Distributed by the University of Wisconsin Press, for the Wisconsin Historical Society Press  
Introduction by John Gurda  
About the Author Christel T. Maass is Academic Librarian in the Special Collections Department at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Golda Meir Library. She holds a B.A. in history from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and M.S. (LIS) and M.A. (History) degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She participated in processing the extensive Kwasniewski Photographic Collection. She is the author of a monthly photo/caption column, "A Glance at Yesteryear," in the *Small Business Times*. Many of the Kwasniewski photos have appeared in that column.