

## INTELEKTUALNE WYTWORY KUBY – MAGICAL NUMBER 7

Hi, it's Kuba here again. In the previous years, my end-of-the-year articles covered the main events of the passing year. This time, I decided to change the review a little bit. What this article is about are the main events of each year whose number has ended in seven in the last hundred years. We'll start with 2017 and go back, decade by decade to 1917. For each year, I will briefly describe two phenomena that I find interesting; one for the world and one for Poland. In other words, I am inviting you to a time travel through politics, culture, arts and sports. Let's go.



**2017** was a year of hurricanes – literally and figuratively. Naturally, the main hurricane in the news was hurricane Trump and the havoc the American president has been creating. But there were also actual hurricanes: *Maria* struck the Caribbean, mainly Puerto Rico; *Jose* brought strong winds and heavy rains to the Bahamas, Bermuda, and parts of the eastern US and Canada; *Harvey* made landfall in Texas, putting much of Houston underwater; *Irma* was the strongest recorded storm to ever exist in the Atlantic. In Poland, the 'winds of change' swept Beata Szydło off her job and flew Morawiecki in as the new Prime minister.



**2007** was a year of the firsts and the lasts. Steve Jobs unveiled the first iPhone and changed the world. Elon Musk presented electric car the Tesla Roadster hoping to change the world. J. K. Rowling published the seventh, final, and most satisfying book of the Harry Potter series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. 8.3 million copies were sold in its first 24 hours in the U.S. Poland, along with the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Slovakia, and Slovenia join the Schengen border-free zone, which was huge as it made travelling to Croatia so much easier.



**1997** was a year of death. In August, Princess Diana, her companion Dodi Fayed and driver Henri Paul were killed in a high-speed car crash in Paris. This event shook the world on many levels: the whole world mourned, most British people got angry with the Queen, and paparazzi became the most despised people. Elton John sang *Candle in the Wind* at the funeral and Tony Blair declared Diana "The

princess of people's hearts". Diana's death, funeral and the media buss the events were so impactful that the world almost didn't notice that a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Mother Theresa of Calcutta died only six days after Diana's tragic accident. In Poland, we buried an old constitution as in April the Parliament accepted a new Constitution of the Republic of Poland. The constitution is still our most important, legal document.



**1987** was a great year for TV series and music. That year alone *The Simpsons*, *Full House*, and *Married with Children* first appeared on TV. Also children's cartoons like *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* and *DuckTales* made their debuts. These shows are either still running, have their remakes, or are in reruns which means we can enjoy them 30 years later. In 1987, the world of music produced U2's *The Joshua Tree*, Guns N'Roses' *Appetite for Destruction*, Michael Jackson's *Bad*, and 'The Queen of Soul', Aretha Franklin, became the very first woman inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. The TV series and music in question have also been enjoyed in Poland and, in 1987, our country was blessed with the first concerts by Johnny Cash, Modern Talking and Metallica.



**1977** was a year of technological revolution in the West and a year of great films in Poland. That year, the world's first all-in-one home computer (keyboard/screen/tape storage), the Commodore PET, was demonstrated and sold at the Consumer Electronics Show in Chicago. Apple Computer was incorporated and Apple II series computers went on sale. Polish cinemas that year premiered films like: *Barwy ochronne* (one of my favorites) by Zanussi, Wajda's *Człowiek z marmuru*, *Kochaj albo rzuć* directed by Sylwester Chęciński, as well as a feature animated film *Wielka podróż Bolka i Lolka*. Let's not forget that, in 1977, there was one more great film released in Hollywood – *Star Wars: A New Hope* and 40 years later we are enjoying *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*.



**1967** was a year of war, love and rock'n'roll. As the war in Vietnam was raging, a hippie culture was born as a protest to the war that Ricky Gervais once described as "war with the best soundtrack". In 1967, Jimmy Hendrix released *Are You Experienced*; The Doors released *The Doors*; The Beatles

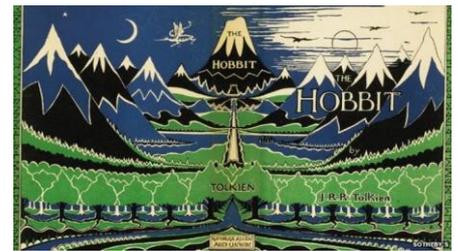
released *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, nicknamed "The Soundtrack of the Summer of Love"; and The Bee Gees released their first international album *Bee Gees*. The first issue of The Rolling Stones magazine was published that year. The music was fueling the hippie movement which resulted in The Monterey Pop Festival and the Broadway premiere of the musical *Hair*. Poland also had a taste in the 'Summer of Love' as, in 1967, The Rolling Stones (the band) gave their very first concert in Warsaw.



**1957** – 'The Space Race' begins and Polish children, teenagers and adults are offered dreams and fantasies. In October, The USSR launched the First artificial satellite 'Sputnik 1' and a month later they launched the Second artificial satellite 'Sputnik 2' carrying the First animal in space (a dog named Laika). The USA started catching up two months later when they launched the First US satellite Explorer 1. In Poland, children were given 'Miś' magazine, and a magazine for girls 'Filipinka'. 'Świat Młodych' featured *Tytus, Romek i A'Tomek* comic strip for the first time and *Rozgłośnia Harcerska* started broadcasting. The dreams of adults were triggered by the debut of Toto-Lotek lottery and the first 'Syrena' car.

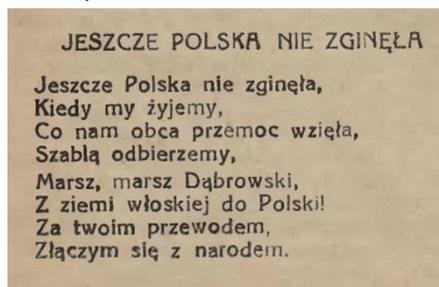


**1947** was a year of major political issues. U.S. Secretary of State George C. Marshall announced the "Marshall Plan" which was the United States' plan to help Europe recover from the devastation of World War II. At the same time the 'Cold War' began. The United Nations voted in favor of the creation of an Independent Jewish State of Israel. Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth married the Duke of Edinburgh at Westminster Abbey, London. Jackie Robinson took to the field for the Brooklyn Dodgers becoming the first African-American to play in Major League Baseball. In Poland, the Communist regime officially began; Bolesław Bierut was elected president and Józef Cyrankiewicz became Prime Minister.



**1937** was a year of dying peace. It seems that in the wake of yet another World War people of the world were trying to escape reality by transporting themselves into the worlds of fantasy. Walt Disney premiered *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*, which was the very first technicolor, full-length animated English language feature film. The popular Looney Tunes character Daffy Duck appeared for the first time in the animated short *Porky's Duck Hunt*. British author J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy novel *The Hobbit* was published. *The Dandy*, the world's longest running comic, was first published. In April, Polish Parliament made a resolution to establish 11 November as Polish Independence Day. Too bad that we

had only one chance to celebrate it before WWII and half a century of communist regime – that was our fantasy.



1927 was a year of sports and music. In the West: The Harlem Globetrotters played their first ever road game in Hinckley, Illinois, and Teddy Wakelam gave the first sports commentary on BBC Radio. Polish reality was dominated by music. 1<sup>st</sup> The International Chopin Piano Competition was held (the winner was Oborin from Soviet Russia). *Dąbrowski's Mazurka* became the official anthem of

Poland. The first radio broadcast of *Bugle-call* from Mariacka Tower in Kraków took place.



1917 was a year of war and politics. While the world was in the midst of World War I, Lenin led the Russian communist to the October Revolution, America entered WW I and declared war on Germany, and British Royal Family changed name

from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to the Royal House of Windsor. In Poland... well, there was no Poland in 1917. However, three gentlemen: Ignacy Paderewski, Józef Piłsudski, and Roman Dmowski worked really hard to bring our country back on the world map. Also in 1917, three children had three vision in Fátima, Portugal.

So that's it. The last hundred years in review. In the New Year, I would like to wish you all most fascinating next hundred years, free of wars and disasters, and full of joy and peace. See you next month.



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