



**Do you like illustrations from the golden era of science fiction?
Meet a forgotten master from “Amazing Stories”!**

**Do you know “Buck Rogers” and “Flash Gordon” classic strips?
Discover “The Adventures of Ryszard Arnold”!**

The "AMAZING STORY – THE LIFE OF JULIAN S. KRUPA, produced by the Polish YouTube channel "Otwarte Komiksy" ("Open comics"), changes the perception of the history of both Polish and US comics and tells the story about the man who was one of the most important artists in the golden era of science fiction.

Exactly 90 years ago, on May 11, 1936, the Chicago-based Polish newspaper "Dziennik Związkowy" published the first installment of Julian Krupa's "The Adventures of Ryszard Arnold". It was the first Polish science fiction comic in history but also one of the most interesting projects on the US market then. It depicts the titular hero's journeys into an underwater world, where he battles monsters and powerful rulers, uses extraordinary vehicles and weapons, encounters strange creatures and aliens, and travels through space and time. The comic enjoyed enormous popularity among the Polish American community, ran over 650 strips, and was also printed in Mexico.

In 1938, Julian Krupa was hired as a graphic artist for "Amazing Stories" the world's first science fiction magazine. For the next ten years he was considered one of the best illustrators. He participated in the first conventions (e.g. Worldcon 2 in Chicago), gave interviews to sci fi fanzines, and illustrated prose by such authors as Isaac Asimov and Edgar Rice Burroughs. Some of his covers are iconic for this era.

Yet Krupa's work remained virtually unknown both in Poland and the United States for decades. His American works never came to Poland because of World War II and then the Iron Curtain. In the United States his pioneering comics were printed in the Polish language, and the creator himself stopped drawing for "Amazing Stories" in the early 1950s, after which he ceased to be involved in sci-fi fandom.

Tomasz Kołodziejczak and Mateusz Maranowski have uncovered unique documents, photographs, and original works by the artist. They present the life and work of Krupa, the historical and cultural context of his works, quotes from his statements, and the story of the discovery of his work by Polish fans.

The material features the artist's family: his daughter, Mary Ann Krupa Stickler, and his grandson, Joshua Stickler. Experts Sara Light-Waller and Wojciech Sedeńko explain the history of pulp art. Małgorzata Kot, director of the Polish Museum in Chicago, shows Julian Krupa's preserved original comics. Grzegorz Trzyna, Head of the Institute of National Remembrance Archives, presents issues of "Dziennik Związkowy" from 90 years ago. Wojciech Kawalec, a fan and collector, discusses the bibliophilic research he did that led to the revival of the "The Adventures of Ryszard Arnold" series.

Important: The film is partly in English and partly in Polish, but the Polish portion can be viewed with YouTube-generated English captions. We show many illustrations and photos on the screen.

"Otwarte Komiksy" is a comics channel hosted by Tomasz Kołodziejczak, sci fi writer, one of Poland's foremost comics experts, a fan, publisher, and author (short works for DC and Disney included). The channel is aimed at both experienced readers and those just beginning their adventure with comics. Mateusz Maranowski is responsible for the technical aspects of "Otwarte Komiksy". EndFrame Media is the channel producer.

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