

**Ageros, Michalina. 2022. A TEMPORARY RESIDENT. London: Michalina Ageros.**

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*A Temporary Resident* is the autobiography of Michalina Ageros, conference interpreter, interpreter trainer, and retired professor of sociology. In an engaging and straightforward manner, she reflects on her life so far, starting with her birth in 1932 to a prosperous family in interwar Poland. After the Nazi invasion and the outbreak of war in 1939, her father, the eminent legal scholar Jerzy Stefan Langrod, joined the Polish army but was captured as a prisoner of war. Together with her mother, the young Ageros embarked on a torturous escape route from Poland, travelling through several countries before eventually ending up as a refugee in the relative safety of occupied France, where she was able to attend school. On completing her secondary education after the war, Ageros subsequently received advanced degrees in law, political science, and conference interpreting in Paris (including a sojourn at the Fundação Getulio Vargas in Brazil), before marrying and moving to the United Kingdom, where she taught sociology at the London School of Economics and the University of Lancaster. After a successful career in academia, she returned to conference interpreting in the late 1980s, initially as a freelance and then as a staff interpreter for the European Commission, before remaining active (up to 2021) as an expert interpreter trainer. Running to 88 pages, this concise book is without chapters and is available in hardback as well as an Open Access ebook. The descriptions contained in the text are complemented by relevant maps and a range of pictures from the author's photograph albums, which help bring to life the people, places, and events detailed in the memoir. Linking in with the theme of this special issue on "Training Interpreters", interested readers will find particular insights in Ageros's description of her own language biography, which pays special attention to how she acquired her future working languages of Polish, French, English, and Portuguese during her childhood and early adulthood (1-55), as well as in her recollections of her conference interpreting training course in Paris in the early 1950s (55-58). Indeed, the latter is especially important given that formal training in simultaneous interpreting was then in its infancy, and one of Ageros's final examiners was the famous conference interpreting pioneer Jean Herbert.

Having returned to conference interpreting after a career elsewhere, Ageros's own professional trajectory is also interesting, especially her unique academic background, language combination, and multiple booths.

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After her wartime experiences, particularly memorable is her account of using Polish professionally at the time when Poland was on the road to European Union membership (85).

Subsequently, Ageros has worked as a conference interpreter trainer at several institutions including London Metropolitan University, which in 2019 recognised her contribution by naming their interpreting suite in her honour (89). Additionally, as the laureate of the 2020 John Sykes Award, Ageros has also been honoured by the UK's Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI).

*A Temporary Resident* is highly recommended for all practicing conference interpreters, as well as for interpreting students and those considering a career in the profession. It draws upon Ageros's rich and varied experiences, and it is important to note that she does not shy away from detailing how she overcame various challenges – as a woman, as a refugee, and as a foreigner – to succeed at the highest echelons in both of her careers. In this world of seemingly constant change, Ageros demonstrates that through versatility and adaptability, even the most challenging and diverse life experiences can be forged into a wonderful career in this demanding yet rewarding profession. As such, *A Temporary Resident* illustrates that Ageros is a source of inspiration who continues to share her skills and expertise with new generations.