

Dr. Leonard S. Polonsky and The Polonsky Foundation

Dr. Leonard S. Polonsky, CBE, has had a successful business career in the financial services sector and is a philanthropist with particular interests in education and the arts and humanities. He established Liberty Life Assurance Company Limited in London in 1970 and is Chairman of its successor company, Hansard Global Plc., which is listed on the London Stock Exchange. A citizen of the UK, Dr. Polonsky grew up in New York City, where he was a pupil at the Townsend Harris High School and received a Bachelor of Arts from New York University (graduating *Phi Beta Kappa*). Following military service in 1945–46, he pursued graduate studies at Lincoln College, Oxford, and in Paris at the Sorbonne, where, in 1952, he received his doctorate, with distinction, in *Lettres*. He taught languages in Heidelberg for several years before embarking on his business career. He is a member of the Board of the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding in New York and the Harry S. Truman Research Center for the Advancement of Peace, in Jerusalem. Dr. Polonsky is an Honorary Fellow and Governor of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he has also been awarded with an Honorary Doctorate. He is a member of the Guild of Benefactors at Cambridge University, UK and was recently named a Commander of the British Empire by the Queen.



The Polonsky Foundation focusses on higher education and the arts and humanities. It has endowed projects at both Oxford and Cambridge universities, as well as at Townsend Harris High School, and digitization projects at major world libraries. Polonsky Fellowships for postdoctoral researchers in the humanities and social sciences are available at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem, where they are based at the newly opened, state-of-the-art Polonsky Academy for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The Polonsky Foundation has been engaged with the Royal Shakespeare Company in a four-year educational program, “Exploring Shakespeare,” available via the internet (<http://www.rsc.org.uk/support-us/difference/education.aspx>). The Foundation was also a major funder of *Shakespeare Uncovered* by WNET on THIRTEEN.