



## Pulaski Monument Restored

**W**ork on Pulaski's Savannah Monument has ended, to the great satisfaction of Billy Jones, the city's facilities maintenance director.

After more than four years and \$900,000 worth of stop-and-go work, restoration of Savannah's monument to Revolutionary war hero Casimir Pulaski was completed.

The 146 year-old monument in Monterey Square pays tribute to the Polish born general who was mortally wounded during the Battle of Savannah on October 9, 1779.

The restoration job, which started in 1996, has been halted several times by a series of problems. The most recent delay was last December when the monument sustained cracks while it was being reassembled.

On Monday, November 27, 2000 a replica of the Lady Liberty statue that once sat upon the 54 foot marble monument arrived at Monterey square and workers began hoisting the statue's small base into place. The work was to be finished by the end of the week.

"Savannah was given as a Christmas present by General Sherman to President Lincoln in 1865," said historian John Duncan, who runs a map and antiques shop from the basement of his home on Monterey Square. "One hundred and thirty-five years later Savannah is giving itself a present —

*The new capital that crowns the monument, as seen at the artists' workshop.*



*The reconstructed monument in Savannah's Monterey Square.*



*The Lady Liberty statue as recast in the shops of the General Porcelain Company of Trenton, NJ.*

the completion of the Pulaski Monument.'

Duncan said he and his wife, Virginia, were married in Monterey Square and bought a home there because it was "the prettiest square in Savannah."

But Duncan said his business has been hurt during the prolonged work on the monument. For the last year,

the monument's main column has sat in the square wrapped in a blue canvas sheet and encased by a rusty iron framework.

Jones said the landscaping work in Monterey Square should be completed soon, and a rededication ceremony is expected some time during 2001.

The work began in September 1996 when conservation workers took the monument apart to fix damage caused by almost 150 years of neglect and misguided treatment. The project was supposed to cost \$190,000 and take about six months but conservators found new problems with the monument almost daily.

In October 2001 a ceremony of rededication for the monument is scheduled to take place. Keep checking the ACPC website for updates: [www.polishcultureacpc.org](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org)

The original Lady Liberty statue was too badly damaged to be restored and returned to the monument. It now sits in the Savannah History Museum. Meanwhile, a North Carolina laboratory continues its research into whether the remains taken from beneath the memorial during the restoration are actually those of Pulaski.

*Continued on page 6.*



## Message from the President

**MARION WINTERS**

**T**he BIG STORY, of course, is the completion of the Conrad R. Walas family's commitment to endow the Casimir Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies with a total gift of \$250,000 by transferring another \$100,000 in UPS shares to the fund, PLUS an additional \$25,000 for five \$5,000 scholarships to be awarded this year. That amazing story deserves special treatment and it is my pleasure to report on it separately in this issue of the Polish Heritage.

Although we had no Affiliate organization in Cleveland at the time of our Spring Board Meeting in April, Thad Cooke was on hand to warmly welcome the Board members. He coordinated with Jo Louise Winters to engage an independent bus tour, "Lolly Trolley" of the city. Thad and his history-buff friend, Ben Stefanski, president of Third Federal S&L, presented us with a lively, fascinating and unique story of Cleveland Polonia 2001, from the Slavic Village of yesteryear to the Cultural Gardens that include a site manned by Polish Americans and the spectacular St. Stanislaus Church where we stopped and visited for a while. The tour ended at Sokolowski's Cafeteria for dinner where we



*The magnificent St. Stanislaus Church in Cleveland, Ohio.*

feasted on traditional Polish delicacies and were most pleasantly surprised to find that Mr. Stefanski had generously covered the cost

of the entire group's (30-some) dinners. That's hospitality, Cleveland Polonia style!

We were very pleased to have Dr. Peter Gessner, President of the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo, which is a Supporting Organization, participate in our Board meeting. Dr. Gessner encouraged all the Affiliate and Supporting groups to do more extensive networking, i.e., coordinating and sharing information about cultural programs that may also be offered in other regions. He also described the very extensive website of the Polish Academic Information Center, which he directs at the University of Buffalo. The site is a magnificent clearinghouse of information about Poland, Polish studies, teacher/student resources, biographies, books, customs, foods, art, etc.

In conjunction with the above comments, I reported that Dr. Andrzej Pronczuk, president of the Polish Cultural Foundation, Boston, also strongly urges our organizations to coordinate and share information about exhibits, performances, and speakers. In this regard, Dr. Pronczuk suggested that the Council work closely with the newly established Polish Cultural Institute located in the Consulate of Poland at 233 Madison Ave., New York, NY

*Please continue on page 11.*



EST. 1911

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## Polish Heritage

Polish Heritage is the official publication of the American Council for Polish Culture, a confederation of affiliated Polish-American organizations and individuals in the continental United States, propagating the knowledge and appreciation of the culture and civilization of Poland, and the contributions of Americans of Polish descent to the history and culture of the United States of America. The Council conceived and helped fund the establishment of the American Center of Polish Culture in Washington, D.C.

### POLISH HERITAGE

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Printed by Quintarc Printing Services • 3977 Fort Street • Lincoln Park, MI 48146

# Journey from Innocence

## East European Monographs, Boulder 1998

by Anna R. Dadlez Ph.D.

Excerpt reprinted with permission of author.



This book attempts to put into writing my life experiences in prewar Poland, wartime Poland, the USSR, the Middle East, and Britain. My motives for setting down these descriptions of my life are twofold. In the first place, there is the perhaps not uncommon need to look back on one's life dispassionately, if only in order to assess where and when one went wrong, and to imagine different possibilities, hence different involvements and feelings. Although the so called winds of war seem to sweep the lives of individuals in particular directions, it is true nonetheless that even the victims of war may opt for some actions over others, and thus influence their destiny.

After the Nazi/Soviet invasion of Poland in the September of 1939, accompanied as it was by the final proof that Poland's allies would not come to her defense, there must have been an awareness on the part of the Polish intelligentsia of the imminence of its own destruction. It was well known, both from the history books and from Poland's bitter nineteenth century experience, that the main goal of an aggressor in taking another country by force is to absorb or to destroy its educated class. Yet in Poland, there was no possibility of intellectual assimilation. Most Poles, especially those in influential positions, could not be bribed or otherwise induced to serve Nazi or Soviet masters; the ethos of the time precluded such an alternative. What remained for them was concealment.

As a judge at the Lwow Court of Appeals (the position was prestigious rather than well-paid) my Father was important enough to warrant unwelcome attention from Nazi or Soviet authorities; he knew it and so did we. And yet, he did not attempt to save himself by concealing himself from the police or by crossing to Rumania or Hungary countries which were still free and friendly to Polish refugees. Later I blamed myself and my Mother for not trying to convince him to do so. But I doubt that our urging would

have had any effect. Polish husbands and fathers were generally reluctant to leave their families, despite the mortal danger the hostile occupation presented. Old fashioned ideas of protecting women and children, no matter how unrealistic such ideas were under the circumstances, might have played a role here. The result was that, while every fifth Pole (man, woman, or child) perished during the war, half of all educated Polish males were killed.<sup>1</sup> Father fell into the latter category.



Anna Dadlez nee Gasowska

Mother's and my deportation at the hands of the Soviet military began at 2:00 a.m., several months after Father's arrest. Here again, our lack of foresight proved well nigh fatal. Both Mother and I expected a search, possible interrogation, possible confiscation of property. For that reason, many valuables were hidden in the cellar and so were inaccessible to us at short notice. Although my family was not wealthy, the family jewels were worth something and would have been invaluable during our time of starvation in

Kazakhstan. But we were watched closely during the short time given us by the Soviet police: their orders, *soberaysia s vieshchamy, poskory* (get ready with things you can carry; hurry up), precluded any organized packing, let alone a trip to the cellar. When cold and hungry somewhere in the USSR, and even later in Iran and Lebanon, I often thought with longing about those trinkets, especially the emerald ring I had received from my father just before the war.

After our miraculous exit from the USSR, my mother and I spent the remaining war years in Polish refugee camps in the Middle East. Did we do right to apply for permission to remain in the West, naively believing that the Moscow-sponsored communist government in Poland would not be recognized by our Allies? Even when the recognition was granted, we hoped that it would be only a matter of time before the West would bring about a just peace.

We were not prepared for the life of displaced persons in post-war Britain, where returning British soldiers naturally took precedence when considered for employment and education. From the status of "gallant allies," we were quickly reduced to unnecessary or undesirable foreigners who, for reasons inexplicable to an average Briton, did not want to go home. These ruminations do not indicate a lack of gratitude on my part for the generosity of the British and American governments in allowing Poles to stay in their countries for political reasons. While Britain was under some obligation to Poland because of the 1939 treaty and the role of Poles in the Battle of Britain, responsibilities on the part of the U.S. were far less apparent. But feelings of gratitude were mixed with bitter disappointment at the consequences of the war's conclusion, and in the Yalta Treaty, which Prof. Halecki has aptly characterized as a "death warrant" for the Poles. We certainly felt it to be so. An enforced sojourn in a foreign country

Please continue on page 8.

# ACPC and Affiliate/Supporting Member News

**POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, CT** – The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford is celebrating its Silver Anniversary. General Chairwoman Mary Mazurek Heslin and her committee are planning the year's events and programs to highlight this special year. ♣ On March 18, 2001, Pres. Ursula Brodowicz presided over "A Day of Polish History and Polish Folk Art" at the Institute for Community Research. Artist Marek Czarnecki provided members with a tour of the exhibit, "Polonia in Connecticut: Polish American Traditional Arts Exhibit." Guest speaker Franciszek Herzog, whose father and uncle were murdered at Katyn and Cherkov, presented a talk, "The Katyn Memorials Today," a poignant revisit he took to honor these brave men who perished there in 1940. ♣ The official commemoration of the club's twenty-fifth anniversary began with on Sunday, April 29, 2001. A Memorial Mass recognized and honored the club's deceased members and was celebrated by Rev. William Przybylo, club member and pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. A reception, Katyn Photo, Exhibit and dinner followed at the Polish National Home. Internationally recognized forensic photo interpreter and author, Waclaw Godziemba Maliszewski, spoke on the Katyn Massacre. Lottie Poz-

niak and her committee provided club members and guests with a day to be treasured.



**KOPERNIK MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL NEW YORK, INC.** – On Palm Sunday, the Association held the annual Polish Easter traditions program. Those present were able to learn how to do Pisanki egg coloring, palm weaving and butter lamb carving. On display was the traditional Polish Easter basket filled with good items for blessing—ham, kielbasa, eggs, babka, butter lamb, horseradish, wine and salt. An explanation of the symbolic meaning of each food was given; and after the program a lucky member of the group had an opportunity to take the basket home. The attendance at this year's program was larger than in previous years. This was due to the publicity provided by the local newspaper, "Observer Dispatch." The paper featured two articles with photographs of Association members doing butter lamb carving and palm weaving. ♣ In April, at the Kopernik Distinguished Polonian Award Dinner, two Polonians were honored for their achievements to Polonia and their respective communities. The 2001 Honorees were Edwin Slusarczyk, an active local Polonian leader and successful businessman; and Suzanne Strempek-Shea, Palmar, Massachusetts, writer, known for her writings about Americans of Polish descent.



**POLISH ARTS CLUB OF YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO** – The 65th Annual Scholarship, Art, Music and Tea Reception took place on Sunday, February 18, at the Butler Institute of Art. The Youngstown Polish Arts Club was proud to award nine scholarships to the following worthy recipients: Cynthia Cvengros, Joseph M. Hosterman, Richard M. Jamrozic,

Christopher Lesniewski, Kevin Madden, Elizabeth Ann Malys, Gina Marie Pallo, Michael John Schlais and Sherri Lyn Suchora. ♣ Artist Mark R. Lysowski, who has exhibited metal and clay sculptures as well as paintings at many museums, attend the reception. He presented some dynamic examples of his sculptures in aluminum. A one-man exhibition at the Butler is scheduled in conjunction with the Polish Arts Club annual celebration in 2003. Mr. Edward Bak, a pianist who has received numerous grants, awards and prizes, and who has performed extensively in the U.S., Canada, Eastern and Western Europe, thrilled the members and guests with a magnificent all-Chopin concert. The after concluded with the enjoyment of refreshing tea, delicate sandwiches, exquisite pastries, and best of all, good fellowship.



**POLISH HERITAGE CLUB OF SYRACUSE, INC.** – On November 20, 2000, members looked forward to making Polish Christmas Tree Decorations, which unfortunately had to be cancelled because of a heavy winter storm. ♣ On December 10, the 23rd traditional Wigilia Dinner was a success with nearly two hundred attending. A program of Koledy by the Symfonia Choral Society followed by group singing, which ended the evening with a happy holiday glow. ♣ The video, "White Eagle in Borrowed Skies," attracted a very large audience on February 19, 2001. It documents the Polish Air Force's contributions to the Allied Victory in Europe in World War II, in addition to their valiant efforts in the Battle of Britain. ♣ In March, Dr. Julianne Dubiel Kapusniak and Mrs. Bernadine Dubiel conducted a hands-on workshop on making Pisanki, Polish Easter eggs. The display of their collection of pisanki was beautiful to behold. The "best" pisanki artists turned out to be our very young attendees!



**POLISH ARTS CLUB OF ELMIRA, NEW YORK** – Members and Guests were very pleased to host the Fall Board Meeting of the American Council of Polish Culture's Board of Directors during the weekend of October 7, 2000. All enjoyed the various activities and of course the club's annual Polonez-Dinner Dance at Elmira's new Elk's



*Silver Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving, Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford. Presentation of Gifts by (left to right) Student Member Thomas Heslin, Founding Member Lottie Pozniak, Student Member Michael Kordowski.*

# ACPC and Affiliate/Supporting Member News



The White Eagle Club in Elmira, New York, site of the Polish Arts Club's Oplatek Dinner.

Club with the music of Art Kubera's Orchestra. ♣ On December 5th, St. Mikolaj came as usual to the delight of the children at the annual Oplatek Dinner Party held at the White Eagle's Club. ♣ On Saturday, April 7th, the Club's yearly bus trip to Buffalo's Broadway Market and dinner at the Polish Villa II was once again a successful venture. ♣ A Swieconka Dinner on Sunday April 22 welcomed Spring and plans were made at the May meeting for participation in Elmira's Memorial Day Parade and ceremonies at the Pulaski monument in Pulaski Park. Not to be overlooked, the annual summer picnic at Harris Hill Park in August was discussed and plans were completed.



CHOPIN FINE ARTS CLUB, SOUTH BEND, INDIANA – During the 61st Anniversary Scholarship and Awards dinner the following recipients were announced: Music - Kendra Darnal - \$1,500; Art - Carrie Campbell \$200; Liberal Arts - Lauren Groth - \$200; Music - Elizabeth Beck - \$200. Congratulations to David Stefancic, now an Associate Professor of Eastern European History at St. Mary's College and Chairman of the Department.



POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA – On March 18, the Society hosted the 34th Annual Chopin Concert featuring Nina Kuzma-Sapiejewska, pianist, and Ewa Izykowska, soprano. Born

in Poland, Ms. Sapiejewska is an extraordinary pianist who has performed Chopin in the United States (at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. among others) and abroad. Later in the program she was accompanied by Ms. Izykowska who sang beautiful renditions of Chopin's songs. The vocalist is a graduate of the Theater Academy and the Academy of Music in Warsaw. In 1981 she made her debut on the stage of La Scala singing the lead on Dionizetti's "Rita." ♣ On May 6, during brunch following the Society's Annual Mass at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA, the following received scholarship awards, presented on behalf of the Society by the Scholarship Committee Chairman, Dr. Steve Medvec: Theresa Wojcik, Ph.D. candidate, University of Pennsylvania and Recipient of a Ful-

bright Scholarship to the University of Warsaw, Dissertation on the ongoing changes in Poland's Secondary School System; Adriana Dobrzycka, Anthropology, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minnesota; Lee Blaney, Civil Engineering, Lehigh University. ♣ In support of the Adam Mickiewicz Polish Language School, a Saturday school, which offers young people instruction in Polish Language, History, Folk Dancing and Choral Singing, the Society presented a check in the amount of \$250 to the President, Mrs. Irene Ruczynska, to assist the school in furthering its school programs.



POLISH ARTS CLUB OF TRENTON, NEW JERSEY – The Academic Choir of the Silesian Polytechnic Institute Gliwice, Poland under the direction of Czeslaw Freund made an appearance on Sunday, January 21, 2001 at St. Hedwig's Church in Trenton, NJ under the auspices of the Polish Arts Club of Trenton. ♣ The choir consists of 55 voices and performed traditional Polish carols, sacred and classical music. It was founded in May of 1945 and now gives 35 concerts per year in Poland. In July 2000 the Choir placed first in the International Choir Olympics in Austria. They came to America at the invitation of the Lincoln Center in New York City where they performed their first concert in the United States, followed by two concerts at St. Patrick's Cathedral and at the United Nations Headquarters.

*Continued on next page.*



Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia scholarship award recipients (left to right) Theresa Wojcik, Lee Blaney, Adriana Dobrzycka, and Scholarship Committee Chairman Dr. Steve Medvec

*The Academic Choir of the Silesian Polytechnic Institute sings at St. Hedwig's Church in Trenton, New Jersey.*



## Member News

*Continued from page 5*

**POLISH ARTS LEAGUE - PITTSBURGH, PA** – The Polish Arts League of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania held its annual Spring Luncheon on April 22nd. The guest of honor was Joseph Barron, the first prize winner of the Martha Gill Albosta Literary Award. The contest topic was “Polish Contributions to Our Society.” Joseph was accompanied by both his parents. Dr. Norbert Pietrzak, PAL President, presented the winners with special certificates, which were composed by Angie Iwanczyk. Unfortunately, Katie Borkowski, the second prize winner was not able to attend. The luncheon was begun with a special blessing of food by Rev. Zygmunt Szarnicki. Mrs. Stephanie Matula had a special display of Easter Folkcrafts. Jane Pelczarski, literary chairman, gave brief book reviews. The books discussed were *Exiled to Siberia* and *Where Eagles Dare*. At the conclusion of the program the guests sang the very traditional Easter hymn *Wesoly Nam Dzien Nastal*.



*Presentation of first prize to Joseph Barron (center), winner of the Martha Gill Albosta Literary Award flanked by Jane Pelczarski, Literary Chairman; and Dr. Norbert Pietrzak, President, Polish Arts League of Pittsburgh.*



*Paul Bosse entertains members of the Academic Choir of the Silesian Polytechnic Institute at the Polish Cultural Center in Washington, D.C.*

## Pulaski Monument

*Continued from page 1*



*Paul Bosse who just recently visited Savannah reports that lights have been mounted as to illuminate the marble column at night, making it one of the few monuments to receive such treatment.*

Circumstantial evidence - a broken hand and the type of casket - strongly suggests it is the general. But DNA tests comparing the remains to a relative, were inconclusive. Research is being carried on to find another Pulaski relative for a new DNA comparison before the re-burial ceremonies at a future date.



*The official plaque telling the story of the monument.*

**53rd Annual**

# American Council for Polish Culture

## Convention

**Chicago, Illinois • July 17-21, 2001**

Hosted by the Polish Arts Club of Chicago, Celebrating its 75th Anniversary

### CONVENTION PROGRAM

**Tuesday, July 17**

- 4 – 5 pm Registration
- 7:00 pm Board Meeting
- 9:00 pm Reception

*Arts & Crafts Room  
will be announced*

**Wednesday, July 18**

- 8 – Noon Registration
- 9:00 am Opening Ceremony/Welcome
- 10:00 am Business Session
- Noon Lunch
- 1:30 pm Board Bus for tour of Polish Museum of America and Chicago's Lakefront
- 7:30 pm Dinner, Signature Room, 95th Floor of the John Hancock Building (indicate your preference: meat or fish)

**Thursday, July 19**

- 8 am–3pm Registration
- 9:00 am Business Session
- Noon Lunch
- 1:30 pm Business Session
- 7:30 pm Marcella Sembrich-Kochanska Concert
- 9:00 pm Reception

**Friday, July 20**

- 8 – 9 am Registration
- 9:00 am Business Session
- Noon Lunch
- 1:30 pm Business Session
- 6:00 pm Evening Free

Visit the website for further information:  
[www.polishcultureacpc.org](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org)

**Saturday, July 21**

- 8 – 9 am Registration
- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Business Session/Elections
- 1:00 pm Board Meeting/Working Lunch
- 6:00 pm Cocktail Hour - cash bar
- 7:00 pm Banquet
- 8:00 pm Awards Ceremony, Installation of Officers
- 9:00 pm Dancing until Midnight

**Sunday, July 22**

Check out by 12:00 noon  
(Church service schedules will be provided)

**Chicago is served by 2 airports:** Midway and O'Hare International.  
**Ground Transportation:** Continental Express Bus, cab, limo or rental car.  
**Driving Directions:** Interstate 90-94 (Kennedy Expressway) exit Ohio Street, east 9 blocks to Michigan Ave., north 8 blocks to Delaware Pl., east one block to Mies Der Rohe Way, north one block to Walton Pl., west one-half block to the hotel.

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**Convention Fees:**

- \$ 50  REGISTRATION \$50.00, PLUS selection below
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Arrive July 17 - 21 Full Convention \$395.00
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Arrive July 18 after Lunch \$340.00
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Arrive July 19 After Lunch \$225.00
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- \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Awards banquet \$95.00

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## Journey from Innocence

Continued from page 3.

is always difficult. There is nostalgia for one's homeland, economic insecurity magnified by one's awareness that one is at a disadvantage in an alien culture with an alien language, and the desperate need for familiar faces, values and customs.

Apart from a need to examine the decisions made and the consequences that they had for me and for others, there is yet another, more pressing reason to write this book. For years I have struggled against the desire to describe my experiences, against the much wider background of the countries I lived in. I wanted to let the reader see these experiences through the eyes of a Polish teenager of middle class background who lived through the war; lost her father, her home, and her country; almost starved to death in the USSR; then traveled, in quick succession, from countries in the Middle East to countries in the West, each of them having left an indelible impression on her.

Why was I reluctant to write such a memoir? The truth is that my sojourn in the West has led me to be very skeptical of personal memoirs or reminiscences. There are too many of them in the world today, some of rather dubious veracity. A truly staggering number of errors and misconceptions has crept into the reading materials and television programs pertaining to World War II and specifically to Poland's role in it.<sup>2</sup>



The young Anna with her parents (Anna and Roman Gasowski) and aunt Kazia (far left)

In succumbing to the wish to write about my life, I offer the following justification, which will perhaps make up for the very personal tone of this book. For each chapter of the story, factual historical background derived from impeccable sources will be given to lend objectivity to the narrative. I believe there is a need for historical information, for my native country is still a *terra incognita* in the West. In losing the war, Poland not only lost a fifth of its population, its villages and cities, its industry and agriculture, but also its international status and with it the right to present its story to the world in books, films, and proclamations. The relative weakness of Polish lobbies in the West, and their lack of access to the media, may also have contributed to a general ignorance of Polish history and culture.

Perhaps this is understandable. What has really taken me by surprise, however, is the similar ignorance about recent Polish history displayed by the post-war generation in Poland. We Poles in the West had fondly imagined that the exemplary behavior of Poles during World War II would be cherished by younger Poles in the same way that we, born in free Poland, had cherished the heroic uprisings of the nineteenth century. How naive we were to think that Roosevelt's words, calling our native country "an inspiration to the world" would be repeated in Poland by dedicated teachers and patriotic, knowledgeable parents bravely exposing the lies of the communist government in the name of truth. Many political emigres in the West, feeling uneasy



Roman Gasowski, Anna's father

about their own inability to help in rebuilding their devastated native country, hoped that younger and more capable hands and minds at home would continue to cherish the old values of honor and sacrifice. Alas, these hopes have proven unrealistic, for it seems that history has ceased to hold fascination not only for people in the West, but for Poles as well. This is a great pity, for an inadequate knowledge of history is threatening to condemn individual nations, and the world in general, to perpetual infancy, and inept and faulty formation and execution of their foreign policy.

I would like to stress that my interest in history stems not only from my life experience, but also from my studies. It is the latter which supplies the primary motive for the writing of this book. And, although Wyspianiski's "that which echoes in one's soul, that which one sees in one's dreams"<sup>3</sup> is an integral part of this work, the background against which it is set is historical and factual.

### NOTES

1. Mk. Dziewanowski, *Poland in the Twentieth Century*, Columbia University Press, c 1977, p. vii; also Norman Davies, *Heart of Europe, A Short History of Poland*, Oxford University Press, 1986, p. 64.
2. This has been brought out brilliantly by Norman Davies in his recent book, *Europe*, Oxford University Press 1996.
3. Stanislaw Wyspianiski, *Wesele* (The Wedding), an early twentieth century play in the Polish language.

# \$250,000 Commitment Honored!

Three days after the Spring Board meeting of the American Council for Polish Culture, President Marion Winters sent the following message to Executive Board Members via e-mail and fax:

"I received by certified mail today, a notarized document for the transfer of UPS shares totaling \$125,000 in value from Mr. Conrad Walas. \$100,000 is to go into the endowment. This fulfills the family's original commitment to make a total contribution of \$250,000 toward the establishment of the Casimir Pulaski Scholarship Endowment Fund. The Walas family has generously added another \$25,000 which is to be used for awarding five \$5,000 scholarships this year and allowing the endowment to continue growing into next year."

The Council had planned to offer only one \$5,000 Pulaski scholarship this year as that was about all the income to be produced this year from the endowment. The Pulaski Scholarship Committee received nearly 100 inquiries from around the country and has now entered the final stages of reviewing 17 applications, 8 students in Ph.D. programs and 9 working on their Masters. Even with five awards to be made, the committee's task will not be an easy one as the applicants are truly outstanding with exemplary faculty recommendations that mark them as serious scholars.

The noble nature of the donors is evident in Conrad Walas' explanation that "Mark Brzezinski, Esq. presented the entire Polish-American Community with the challenge of galvanizing 'behind our young people as they pursue the best education that America offers.' The Walas Family gift matching contribution is only one of many needed to meet that challenge. No single contribution should merit special notice. Besides the only name associated with the scholarships should be Casimir Pulaski. Contributions of all sizes are necessary in order to meet the challenge. And only when there are no applicants left will the challenge be met."

In his message to the Executive Board, Winters had closed with the statement "Oh, that there were more such noble Polish American patriots in this country!" A few days later he received a totally unexpected check in the amount of \$500 made out to the Pulaski Scholarships Endowment from Dr. John Cetnarowski-Cetner of Albany, NY with a simple note: "I wish to support this commendable project"! This proves that the American Polonia can and will meet the challenge proposed by Mark Brzezinski and initiated by the Conrad Walas family to create an endowment fund of \$500,000 so that many more future generations of Polish-American students in graduate studies will receive the help necessary to cope with the rising costs of higher education. Tax-deductible contributions may be made out to ACPC Pulaski Scholarship Endowment and sent to Gregory Biestek, ACPC Treasurer, 817 Berkshire, Grosse Pointe Park MI 48230.

# Torch of Freedom

by Czeslaw Czaplinski

We have come to expect new monuments from Andrzej Pitynski whose work can be seen in the cities of Boston, New York, Jersey City, Doylestown, Hamilton and Trenton in the United States, and in Krakow, Warsaw, and his native Ulanow in Poland.

Pitynski's latest monument, "Torch of Freedom" was unveiled in the most popular part of Baltimore Maryland, close to the historic port, which is visited each year by thousands of tourists. It is the largest bronze monument in this country, much bigger than the famous "Atlas" statue in Rockefeller Center or the "Republic" monument in Chicago.

The sculpture "Torch of Freedom" was cast in Poland at the Gliwice foundry GZUT where Pitynski created his first monuments after finishing the Krakow Fine Arts Academy. Over 44 feet high, weighting 12 tons, set on a granite base, the main part of the sculpture is gilt in 24 carat gold. Eleven bronze figures, 8 feet 4 inches



The Katyn Monument in Baltimore

high, are blended into the flame so as to portray a crowned eagle with spread wings. "Like the legendary phoenix rising from the ashes of destruction," says maestro Pitynski, "the Polish eagle is reborn through the martyrdom — at the hands of the Soviets in 1940 — of the Polish officers to whom this monument is dedicated."

Behind each undertaking like "Torch of Freedom." which cost \$1.4 million, stand important supporters. Presidents Bill Clinton and Aleksander Kwasniewski sent letters, and many dignitaries attended the dedication ceremony: Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland, the mayor of Baltimore, Martin O'Malley, the Polish Ambassador and distinguished parliamentary guests from Poland, president of the Katyn Committee, Alfred Wisniewski, and his deputy, Edward Rybczynski, and hundreds of Poles from all over America. Rev. Zdzislaw J. Peszkowski, one of the few Poles who survived the massacre, consecrated the monument.

"Torch of Freedom" now contributes a somber beauty to the city of Baltimore. For many, it will provide the first contact with hitherto unknown history — and a warning that truth will out, even if it takes half a century.

Translated from the Polish by Jacek Galazka, "New Horizon"

# Book Review

by Edmond Darboski

Recently I received from Poland an interesting book in the English language entitled "Poland: An Encyclopedic Guide" published in November 2000 by the Polskie Wydawnictwo Naukowe [Polish Scientific Publishers] in Warsaw, price: 225 zloty. (Subsidized by Poland's Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, in cooperation with the Culture Foundation). This is truly a compendium of knowledge about Poland, its history, people and culture. It is nearly one-thousand pages long and is well illustrated with photographs (color and b/w), graphics and maps. Written in British-English it is understandable to Americans but has some interesting phraseology in places. For example the rather enigmatic: "In 968 cathedral was built in the borough, traces were found in the vaults of present building with huge bowl of limy bowl and remains of two simple stone tombs." (p. 798)



The book has three main sections. The first and major is composed of many topical articles that detail various aspects of the country: general information, culture, history, science, and ethnic populations inside Poland, as well as Poles living abroad. Each article is complete with encyclopedia-type listings describing persons who have made significant contributions in the referenced area. The second section is an alphabetic listing of assorted topics associated with Polish history and culture. These range from "AK - Home Army" to "ZOB - Jewish Fighting Organisation." The final part is a gazetteer of Polish voivodships, cities, towns, national parks and nature preserves.

While some readers may not agree with me, this book is a breath of fresh air after having used encyclopedias that were edited and printed in Poland during communist times. Not only is the printing attractive, but, in the history section, a sincere attempt has been made to supply those parts of Polish history that had formerly been either left blank or enshrouded in dense fog. I am referring to items like the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, the nation-building role of Marshal Pilsudski, the Katyn Forest massacre and a score of other topics.

That is not to say that the book is ideal,

far from it. It can best be characterized as a "step in the right direction." For some reason there is no general index, and this is a major hinderance. So if you want to know about the "Targowica Confederation," you must plod your way through the history section. If you are already versed in Polish history you can locate it quite quickly. But if you are just making your first steps into that field – good luck. Somehow, this item escaped being listed in the second section that contains Polish topics in alphabetical order. For a reference book of this nature, leaving out the index is a cardinal sin of omission.

As I said before, the book contains some interesting phraseology. It is unfortunate that, before going to print, it was not given to a native English speaking editor for a read-through. This would have eliminated some of the inconsistencies of language in the book. Reading the names of the translators one cannot help but notice two non-Polish names that suggest native English speakers were used to some extent in preparing the volume, yet this does not seem to be evident in a reading of the text.

Possibly, a thorough editing could have also eliminated an error or two. The most glaring one that was pointed out to me (to date) was the listing of engineer Ralph Modjeski as "Modjejski" and erroneously crediting him with the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge (he was involved in building the nearby Oakland Bay Bridge!). In another place Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia is named as Chicago's Cardinal. Errors such as this erode the trust one may place in a reference book.

Having said all that, I am glad I have the book, though I will use it with caution. I sincerely hope that PWN's editors will get working immediately on the next edition, one that will have a comprehensive index, and that they will correct some of the other flaws. Then, and only then, we Poles living abroad can recommend this book to our English-speaking friends and neighbors.

The book has now gone on sale in the United States, at some Polonia bookstores, for \$100. Is it worth it? I'll let the buyer decide.

## Vocal Competition Winner KINGA SKRETKOWICZ

The American Council for Polish Culture is pleased to announce the \$2000 Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Vocal Competition prize for 2001 has been awarded to Kinga Skretkovicz, who was born in Lodz, Poland. She is currently a student of Mary Ann Hart, working on a Master's of Music at the Indiana University School of Music, Bloomington, Indiana. In March 2001, she was selected as a Soros Fellow by The Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans. This year she was also a semi-finalist of Orpheus Voice Competition and the Kosciuszko Foundation's Voice Competition.

Ms. Skretkovicz completed an Artist's Diploma in piano at the State School of Music in 1993. She began a Bachelor's Degree in Voice at the Academy of Music in Lodz, completing it as a transfer student at the Indiana University. She also holds degrees in English Studies from the University of Lodz, Poland, and an MBA from the University of Lyon, France. As a soloist of the chamber ensemble "Con Vigore" she performed extensively throughout Europe and South America. At the Academy of Music in Lodz, she was a member of the baroque instrumental ensemble in which she sang, among others "Nine German Arias" by Handel. As a student of the IU School of Music she performed in Prokofiev's "Love for Three Oranges," Handel's "Messiah," and gave recitals of songs by Polish and Russian composers. She is scheduled to perform the role of Pousette in Massenet's "Manon" in October, 2001.

Kinga Skretkovicz, soprano, will perform a full recital at the 2001 convention of the American Council for Polish Culture on July 19, 2001 at 7:30 pm, in Chicago, Illinois at the Millenium Knickerbocker Hotel.

## Visiting the General's Homestead

While scouting a location for the ACPC 2002 convention in Poland — Krakow was the final choice — Debbie Majka and Dick Wiermanski stopped at the picturesque town of Warka, on the Pilica River, about 40 kilometers south of Warsaw. This is the location of the Pulaski family manor, now a museum dedicated to the General. The bronze statue on the grounds of the museum is a twin of the one in Buffalo, NY except that the one in Buffalo stands on a tall stone pedestal. Now, thanks to the Conrad R. Walas family there will be another memorial to the General, a living memorial, the Pulaski Scholarship.



## President's Message

*Continued from page 2.*

10016, tel. 646-237-2100, ext. 8; fax 212-779-3062. The Institute's Director is Pawel Potoroczyn (e/m Potoroszyn@altavista.net) and the Vice-Director is Monika Fabijanska.

During the course of our Cleveland visit, the Board members were gratified to learn that Ben Stefanski and John Bak, President of the recently formed John Paul II Polish Cultural Club, are seriously considering applying as a Supporting Organization to our Council. The incentive for such consideration by the new club is the handiwork of Thad Cooke who is also endeavoring to form another organization, honoring the Jamestown Poles, which Tad promises will become an Affiliate. Thad is a staunch supporter of the American Council for Polish Culture who believes our goal should be 100 Affiliate and Supporting organizations, and he's trying to do his share in making that aim come through!

Much was accomplished at the Board meeting thanks to the enthusiastic progress reports by committee chairs and thorough discussions on every important issue. The Awards Committee, chaired by Wally West, selected Dr. Edward Kozlowski posthumously for the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of

his pioneer spirit and being the driving force behind the establishment of one of the best equipped public observatories in the US, the Kopernik Observatory, and the Kopernik Space Education Center designed specifically for young people preparing for the 21st century. The Cultural Achievement Award will be presented to Ruth Slenczynska who has been called one of the greatest women pianists today by the *London Times*; was awarded the Golden Cross of Merit by Poland; and has been honored by several crowned heads in Europe and five US presidents.

The Board members chose the dynamic team of Bernadette & Richard Wiermanski to receive the 2001 Founder's Award for their many years of dedicated service in key positions on the Executive Board. Their expert planning of conventions and tours on behalf of the American Council for Polish Culture has served us exceedingly well.

I also want to thank all of the hard-working members of the Board. Everyone of you deserves recognition – a Medal for Exemplary Performance! An Oak Leaf Cluster should be added to that Medal for Marion Barta whose first job with the Council has been the demanding position of Financial Secretary. She has carried out the duties to perfection. Unfortunately, time constraints have forced her to resign at the end of June. She will always be

welcome at Council events and hopefully, her schedule will permit her to rejoin the Board in the near future.

“Chicago is my kind of town” – that refrain will be on the lips of everyone who attends our Convention this summer, thanks to the inspired work of our host, the Polish Arts Club of Chicago, led by a powerhouse team, Dr. Vivian Walkosz and Bob Maycan.

You won't want to miss this fabulous event at the Regal Knickerbocker Hotel, an exciting tour of downtown Chicago, the beautiful lakefront where wreaths will be laid at the statues of Copernicus and Kosciuszko; and a visit to the famous Polish Museum of America. Get your reservations in early!

My term of office as president will end at the Chicago Convention. The successes we've enjoyed over the past two years must be credited fully to the tremendous loyal support I've received from Board members as well as regular Council members. I am grateful that I will be leaving the post with some richly endowed funds in our treasury and a new dynamic program, the Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies. Rest assured that while I may no longer be president, I'm unable to stop serving the American Council for Polish Culture – it's in my blood now – and with me you also get my indefatigable partner, Jo Louise.

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# Polish Heritage

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### ATTENTION AFFILIATE AND SUPPORTING MEMBERS

The deadlines for submitting your organization's news is as follows:

Spring Issue	February 1
Summer Issue	May 1
Fall Issue	August 1
Winter Issue	November 1

**REPRINTS** are permitted provided credit is given to ACPC *Polish Heritage* and copy sent to editor.

# The 28th Annual Adam Styka Juried Art Exhibit & Sale

The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, an affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), together with the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown PA is hosting the 28th Annual Adam Styka Art Competition and Exhibit. This year the exhibition will take place in the Shrine's recently opened exhibition building.

The 2000 Art Competition and Exhibit was a great success with 120 entries by over 50 artists. Many different subjects, styles and techniques were on exhibit. While traditional media predominated—oils, watercolors, and acrylic—there were several mixed media entries that featured fused glass, collage, and pastel.

The exhibit will open on August 26, when prizes will be awarded to the winning artists during a reception hosted by the Heritage Society. The exhibit will be open to the general public on September 1, 2, 3, and 8, 9. These dates coincide with the Shrine's annual Labor Day and Country Fair Days.



Entries from the  
2000 Exhibition



### 2001 SCHEDULE

Delivery: August 18, 2001 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm  
Preview Party: August 26th, 2001 - 2:00 pm  
Show: September 1, 2, 3, and 8, 9, 2001  
Pick-up: September 10, 2001 - 1:00 to 6:00 pm  
*Monetary awards will be presented to winning artists.*

- For full rules and entry forms contact: Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, 645 Renz Street, Philadelphia, PA 19128, tel: (215) 487-0221 e-mail: HP6745@aol.com
- Full information and entry forms are also available over the internet on the ACPC web site <http://www.polishcultureacpc.org/styka.html>