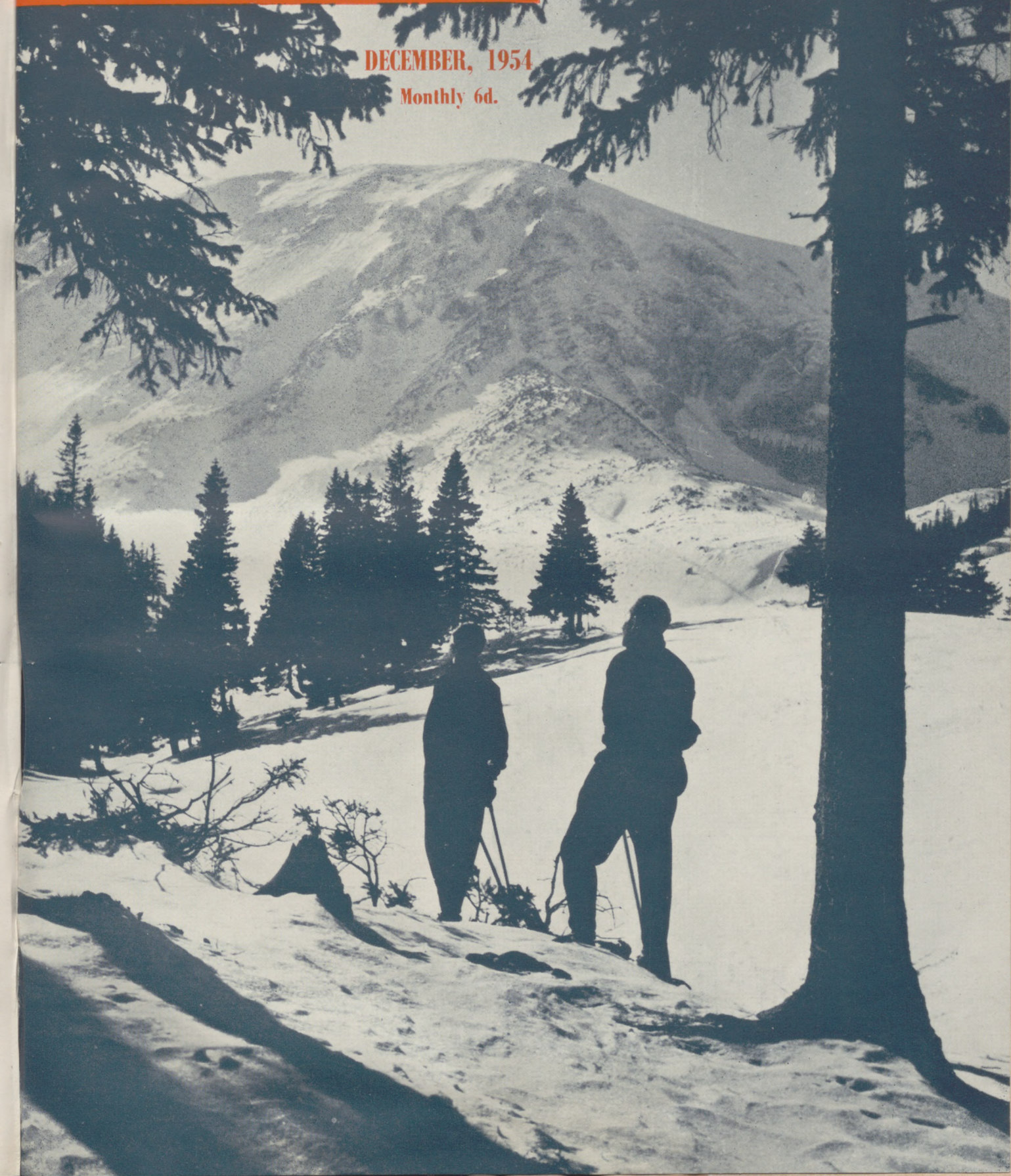


NEW POLAND

DECEMBER, 1954

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NEW POLAND

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DECEMBER, 1954

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Seasonal Greetings

WITH best wishes for a Peaceful and Prosperous Future to all our friends, at home and overseas, from the Editorial Board and Staff of *New Poland*.

CHRISTMAS EVE SUPPER IS THE BIG OCCASION

But it's oh! so solemn

HIGH-LIGHT OF THE CHRISTMAS celebrations in Poland is the Christmas Eve supper.

It is a solemn family occasion, steeped in tradition and superstition. And like most old customs, of all countries, it is carried on more in the countryside than in the towns.

As the first star appears in the sky, with the presents arranged on and around the Christmas tree (the Poles called them New Year trees), the feast begins.

Before sitting down for the meal the family share an *oplatek*, a kind of consecrated wafer biscuit. First the head of the family breaks his *oplatek* and then so on until the youngest is last. As each breaks their wafer they wish each other long life and prosperity in the future.

Then to the meal, which according to tradition must be eaten by an even number of people. Should an odd number of people share the meal it is said that all participants will die during the course of the year. Particularly are thirteen people avoided.

After Supper—The Presents

It is usual to set a place at the table for absent friends or for unexpected visitors, for this meal, above all is an occasion of brotherly love and equality.

An old saying has it that the number of dishes must be uneven, they may be five, seven, nine, eleven or even thirteen, depending on the wealth of the host.

Although there are twelve dishes considered as traditional for this meal by the country people, their *oplatek* makes the total uneven.

A typical meal will consist of soups: mushroom, fish, borshch or pea soup. Then comes the fish dishes, pike in saffron, carp with raisins and honey or herrings.

Next the pasties: filled with poppy seed, buckwheat porridge, peas, and pies filled with mushrooms and cabbage, bigos (a stew of hashed meat and cabbage), a special Christmas Eve dish known as *kucia* and *andruty* (finger-like cakes) covered with poppy seed.

Finally the dessert: *kisiel* (a jelly-like dish made from farina, fruit juices and sugar, *bakalie* (fruit cakes), pears and dried fruit, nuts and pastry, of which the most popular are the *strucel* (with poppy seed) and *pumpnickel* (ginger bread).

After the Christmas Eve supper the lights are lit on the Christmas tree and presents exchanged as carols are sung. Then it is usual for the whole household to go to Midnight Mass.

Most of the merrymaking festivities are held around the New Year and it is

then that Father Christmas (Father Frost to the Polish children) makes his appearance and more presents are distributed.

Christmas in Poland is a quiet family affair with the emphasis still on the religious aspects, for the Catholic traditions are strong.

Buying Christmas Trees in Warsaw



CHRISTMAS TREES, CHRISTMAS trees. One can meet them everywhere to-day, in the trams (the branches carefully tied together to guard against damage) or on the balconies of the flats on all housing estates.

You only take a few steps and you hear the excited voice of a child "Mummy look what a beautiful coloured glass ball!" And the child of Warsaw stretches its hand towards the shop window where the lovely glass decora-

tions for the Christmas trees, Angel's hair, stars, electric candles, silver chains and dozens of other fairy-like decorations attract the attention of the window gazers.

There isn't a shop, large or small, in the centre of the town or in the suburbs where there isn't a star, or the branch of a Christmas tree with a small candle attached to it, or the figure of Father Christmas with his big white beard, as part of the window display.

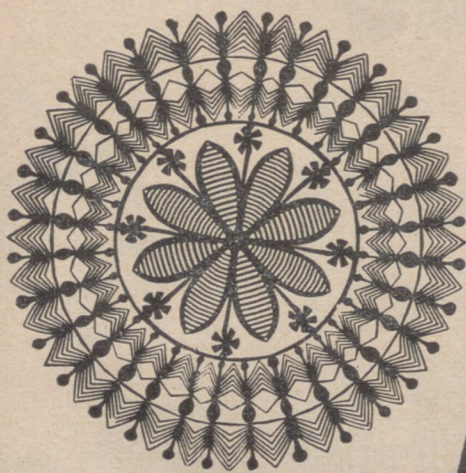
Such is pre-Christmas Warsaw.

How They Celebrate In Town





The Traditional Christmas of the Polish Countryside



DEAR Friends, you hear much of the changes that are taking place in our country, so I thought you would be interested in something which does not change—a traditional Christmas in our countryside.

Come with me, I am Marianna Konopka, a peasant's daughter in the village of Kadzidlo, and join my grandparents on Christmas Eve. It is a solemn occasion, as it should be, we rejoice and make merry at the New Year.

As a last touch to the preparations for the evening my grandparents place sheaves of corn in each corner of the room. They believe that the sheaves must be placed there in order to ensure a good harvest and plenty in the whole of the following year.

The pillows you see in the top picture opposite were Grannie's dowery, and they too have a tradition, for they must be arranged just so.

Before sitting down for our meal we all share our "Oplatek" with each other while wishing long and happy years. Then we have our Christmas Eve Supper, which by tradition must consist of twelve dishes.

The Supper over, Grandma with my sister Marysia light the candles at the pictures of the Saints. Then we all get ready for the Midnight Mass.

But before leaving for Mass the old folk go to the stables. There they share their "Oplatek" with the cattle. The old peasants of Poland believe that the cattle can speak on Christmas Eve and so must be treated with respect. But woe betide anyone who hears the cattle talking for they will not live long.

Now all is ready and we go off to Midnight Mass, like so many people the world over.

Such is Christmas Eve in our village, a Christmas steeped in age-long traditions. Every year it is the same, nothing changes, but now there is a difference. Our parents no longer have the worry for months and months of how they can scrap and scrape to get the things one must have at Christmas. They are better off than ever in their lives and can easily afford the little extras.



NOW IN THE FIFTH POSITION IN WORLD PRODUCTION

The Coal Industry of Poland Reviewed

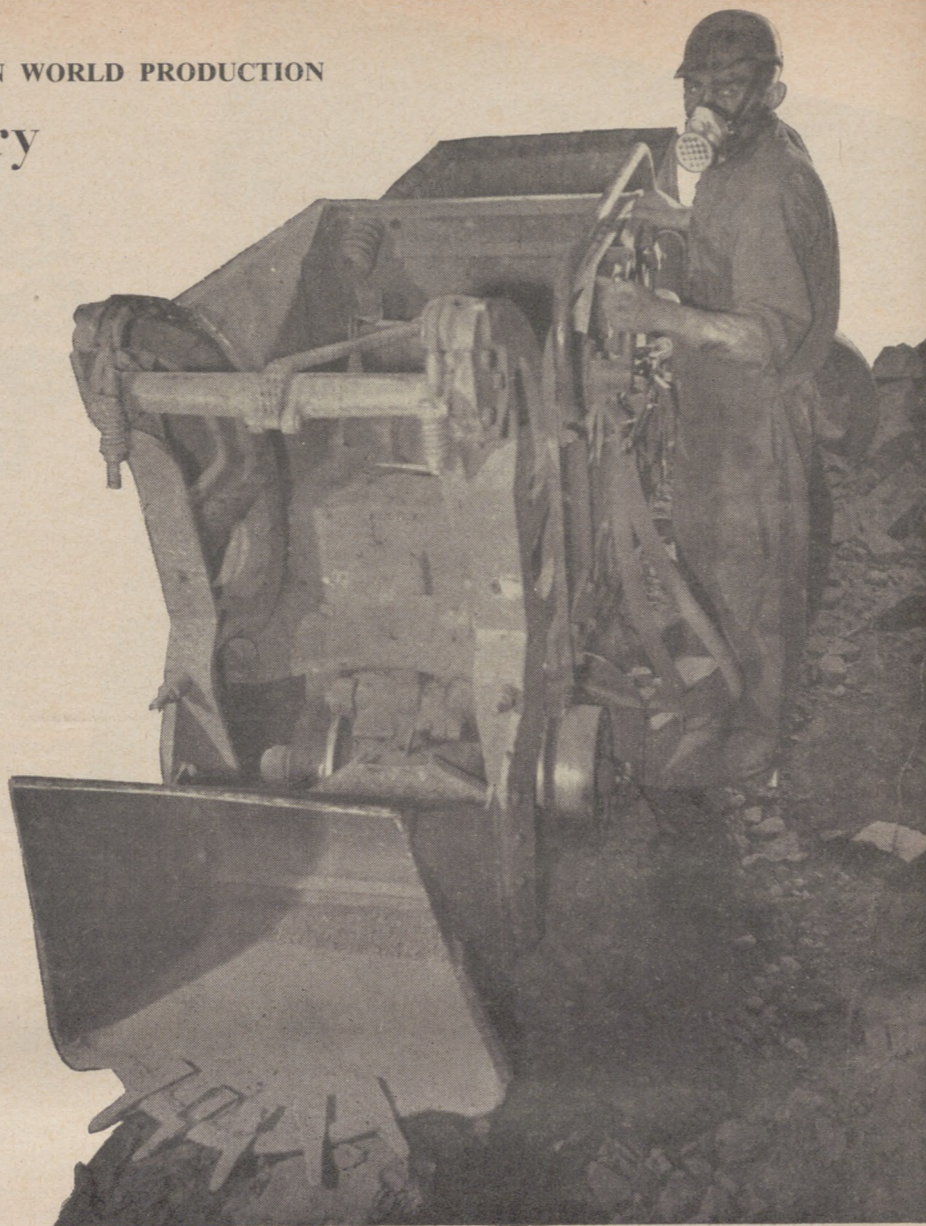
THE POLISH COAL MINING INDUSTRY has long-standing traditions, and for years has occupied a leading position among coal-producing countries. The doubling of the pre-war output of coal has advanced Poland to fifth place in world production of this valuable raw material, and has not only made her able to cope with the steadily soaring home demand, but also to lay down a solid foundation for export trade.

Output has been sent up by leaps and bounds as a result of the rapid tempo of post-war recovery, rehabilitation of the coal mining industry from war damage, the all-round mechanisation of work processes and the opening of new collieries in particularly prolific coal fields. Coal output ran up from 27 million tons in 1945 to 47.3 million in 1946 and reached in 1949—by the end of the Three-Year Plan of Economic Reconstruction—the 74.1 million mark. By comparison, the 1938 coal output amounted to a mere 38.1 million tons.

More Mechanisation

This spectacular tempo of re-deployment in Poland's coal mining industry is all the more impressive, since the Nazi occupation policy of wanton destruction completely devastated a number of collieries, made numerous seams inaccessible by gob-fires, damaged pillars supporting the roofs, and put capital plant and equipment out of commission. The liberal investments allocated under the Six-Year Plan of Economic Development (1950-1955) naturally stimulated a further, substantial increment in coal output which had risen, by 1953, to 88.7 million tons on the way to an anticipated 1955 rate of 100 million tons per annum.

Intensive and judicious exploitation of existing collieries is another contributory factor to raising output. Special care is being devoted to increasing the output and to rational management of coking coal—a type essential, first and foremost, for the production of metallurgical coke for furnace and foundry use. Equipment necessary to improve the quality of coal—screening and washing plant—has also been extensively developed. Rapid progress is being made in electrification; pneumatic drives are, wherever possible, being replaced by electric drives, and increasing use in underground haulage is being made of electric locomotives.



A Polish-built loader manned by Antoni Frackowiak in the Zabrze-Wschod Colliery

Poland's new collieries are being equipped throughout with ultra-modern mining machines, particularly mechanical coal preparation plants.

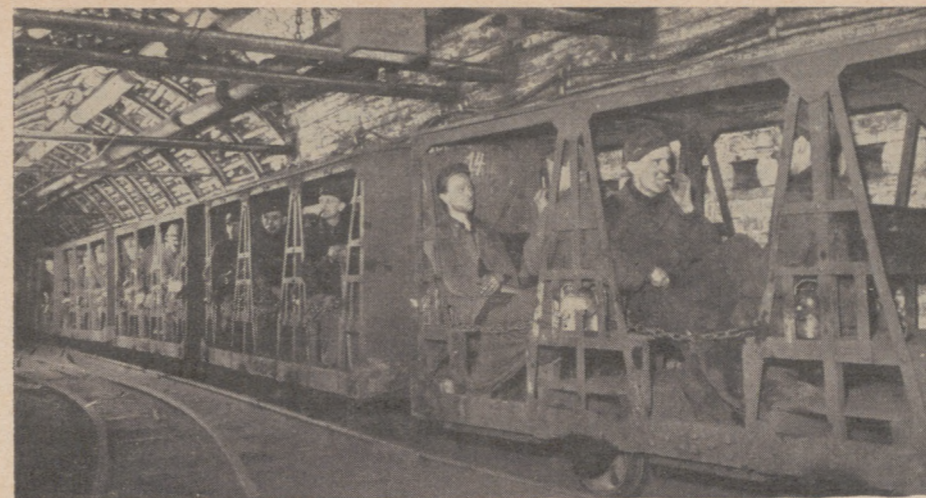
Polish-Built

Large-scale mechanisation of all processes involved in winning the coal is, in addition to the capital investments referred to, another output-stimulating factor. The number of hammer and rotary drills, coal and rock loaders, conveyors, mine trucks, locomotives for underground haulage and other equipment now available in coal mines has set the pace for a great new era in Polish mining practice.

Polish colliery plant and equipment reveals, moreover, an improvement in the quality and increased power of the machinery now in use. Certain items of plant and equipment to-day in operation

in Polish collieries were unfamiliar to the pre-war mining industry, and the cutter-loader, or "continuous miner" as it is generally called, is, without doubt, the most revolutionary of all innovations in coal mining technique. Most Polish collieries have already been equipped with these machines and have, in consequence, multiplied the output in headings and at the coal face several times.

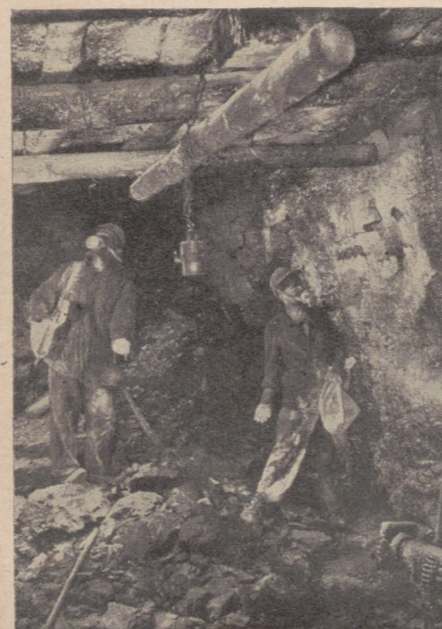
A noteworthy feature is that all mining plant and equipment supplied to collieries is made in the country and the output of the industry concerned is now adequate not merely to meet the home demand, but also to make available a considerable surplus for export. Polish works are producing the latest types of high-performance mining machines—cutter loaders, scoop and throw-back loaders, shaft loaders, longwall and shortwall coal cutters, scraper conveyors of several types, and band conveyors.



The latest "Paddy Mail"



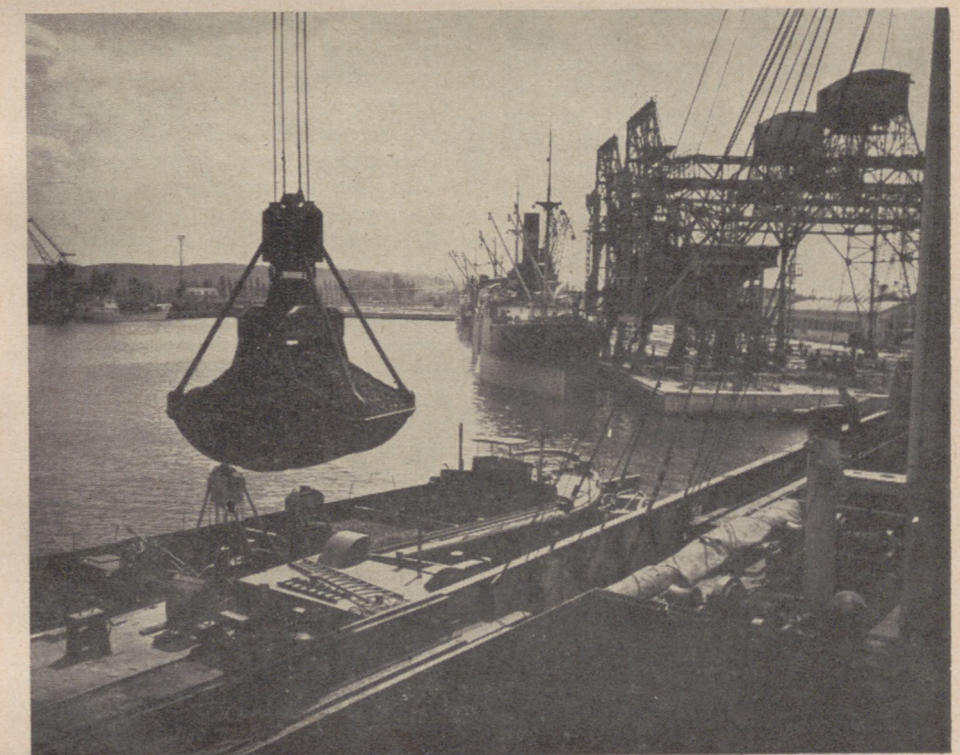
Lining up a coal cutter



Stone dusting—a fire preventive



En route to . . .



. . . Szczecin, Poland's major coal port

December 4th is celebrated throughout Poland as Miners' Day.

Polish technicians have succeeded in producing "ash-free" coal by mechanical means instead of the expensive chemical method used in most countries.

Because of the nature of their job and their importance to the national economy, Polish miners enjoy many privileges such as longer holidays with pay, a shorter working week and higher wages than most Polish workers.

Lots of Polish mines are gas-free and so the miners are allowed to smoke below ground.

In the fight against silicosis and other chest diseases common to miners, foundry workers, and certain other trades, Poland has set up a chain of Preventoria. Suspected cases are treated at these clinics before the disease gets a hold.

Retiring age for Polish miners is 55, from which age a pension is paid whether the pensioners continue to work or not.

A new wages system introduced in September meant an all round increase for all grades and a much higher starting wage for new entrants to the Polish mining industry. New incentive bonuses were introduced to encourage workers to improve their skill and grading.

CREATIVE PEACE AS IN POLAND IS ALTERNATIVE TO WAR PLANS

says Gordon Schaffer

THE FRANTIC MANOEUVRES BEHIND the scenes in the Labour Party reached their climax with the meeting of Labour M.P.s at which a decision to back West German re-armament was forced through after a two-day discussion, and four right wingers were chosen to speak for the Party in the House of Commons debate.

At Scarborough, the leaders persuaded key delegations to switch over to the support of the German re-armament resolution by promising that the phraseology left the door open for further discussion before a final decision was taken. At Westminster, Labour M.P.s were told that the Scarborough resolution prevents them from demanding further talks, and commits the Party to support the Government in ratifying the Nine Power Agreement.

It's a very pretty manoeuvre, but it doesn't change the situation. The fact is that the great majority of the rank and file members of the Labour Party are against the re-armament of Western Germany. They proved it when a few selected Executive speakers went all round the country before the Scarborough Conference addressing delegate meetings from local Labour Parties, and everywhere failed to gain support.

More Realistic

In every trade union where democratic discussion has been allowed, German re-armament has been opposed. Organisations like the National Union of Mine-workers, whose block vote was decisive, both at the T.U.C., and at the Labour Party Conference, have refused to allow a ballot vote of their members. Had one been taken, German re-armament would have been overwhelmingly rejected.

The Congress for World Security called by the British Peace Committee, and attended by the delegates from some 400 organisations, which unanimously opposed German re-armament, gives a much more realistic picture of British public opinion.

So, when the M.P.s ratify the Nine Power Agreement they do so against the wishes of the British people. They give a pledge to keep British troops in

Europe, which not only involves our generation, but our children, and even our grandchildren.

What nonsense it is to suggest that, in a world that has changed out of all knowledge, in the last half century, Governments in defiance of the wishes of their people, can dictate the course of events for the next half century.

The same thing is true not only of Britain, but of the other countries of Western Europe as well. All the manoeuvres that have been going on in France, cannot conceal the massive opposition to the whole policy of German re-armament among the French people.

German Opposition

And in Germany? The Trade Union Movement which represents the biggest section of the people, opposes the Nine Power Agreement in West and East alike. The Trade Union leaders in the German Democratic Republic have sent a message of solidarity to the Trade Union leaders in the Federal Republic congratulating them on their opposition to re-armament.

On the same day that the Congress for World Security was held in Britain the West German Committee for the Peaceful Solution of the German Problem held a broadly representative Conference in Dusseldorf at which an appeal was made for Germans from the two Republics to get together to find a way of securing free elections throughout Germany, and four-power discussions to ensure a free and united Germany.

So whatever happens as the result of the London Nine Power Agreement, the policy of re-building armies in the West under the Nazi Generals will be in opposition to the will of the people.

The slogan *Ohne Uns* (without us) will still be true.

The struggle for Peace, for negotiations to bridge the gap between East and West will go on. Conditions in some ways will become more difficult, but on the other hand it will become even clearer that the leaders who have adopted this policy are divorced from the people.

The struggle will go on against a changing background of events in which more and more people in every country, and representing the widest range of opinion will join the demand for negotiations to settle world differences. This demand will grow, because the A-Bomb and the H-Bomb have left the world with no alternative between seeking Peace or enduring a disaster beyond contemplation.

Positive Answer

In every country where the people are in a position to make their voices heard, the politicians will be forced to listen to the demand for a policy of Peace. People like Lord Montgomery, who blithely talk of using atomic weapons, will prove such an embarrassment that Governments will be forced to repudiate them.

This is the reality behind the next stage in the struggle for Peace which is the motive behind the Stockholm World Peace Council, and the World Assembly of Peace, scheduled for the spring of next year. The World Peace Movement is not just opposing policies that lead to war; it is organising *Creative Peace*; Peace on which the resources of science, and above all, of atomic energy will be used to increase the bounty of the earth; Peace in which the countries of Socialism and the countries of Capitalism will share the cultural heritage of every land, a heritage which belongs not to any one country, but to all mankind; Peace in which exchanges between countries will be possible in every field—in literature, art, science, music, sport, and so on; Peace in which the ordinary men and women can visit any country they choose.

Isolating War

The Peace Movement has always represented the great majority of mankind. Its task has always been to isolate the tiny minority who think and plan in terms of war. That minority is still powerful, but it is becoming smaller every day, and more and more it is becoming isolated from the people.

In this struggle for Peace, the cause of friendship between our countries, and the countries building Socialism clearly has a special place. The cause of friendship with Poland is particularly important, because Poland above all countries is threatened by the plan to rebuild the West German army.

The task of showing the British people how the Polish people are re-creating their country, and of how their every action proves their devotion to Peace, is the surest way of building that bridge between our two countries. It is one of the ways in which we shall ensure *Creative Peace*.

New Poland

Does the Emphasis Need Changing?

"YES," SAYS LORD SILKIN

ONE of Britain's leading experts on town planning and reconstruction, Lord Silkin, who was himself Minister of Town and Country Planning for several years, and a Number One planner of re-housing for the London County Council for many years, recently had his third look at Poland since the war. Here, in an interview with "New Poland," Lord Silkin tells what he saw, and what, in his view, is wrong.

I was in Poland (Lord Silkin said) seven years ago, then again two years ago, and finally this year. They were brief visits in which my view was necessarily superficial because of the shortness of time and the programme we tried to accomplish in it. But I would say this:

The progress of reconstruction in Warsaw is stupendous when you remember what Warsaw was like, and realise that Warsaw now begins to look like any normal city. In many parts you can no longer see evidence of war damage. There is, however, still a tremendous amount to be done before all traces of the war are removed—a task which may take fifty years to accomplish.

But you can now see how it is going to be one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. The fact that vast districts were destroyed has helped to make this possible, where it would not have been possible to rebuild on the old foundations. It has given them much greater freedom of action. On the other hand, the way the shells of lovely and dignified buildings have been used in reconstruction all adds to the beauty of the city.

Needs Pointing Out

As to other places, much excellent work has been done in such places as the New Town of Nowa Huta. I think the speed there has been quite sensational.

On the other hand, I think it is a pity that in the order of priorities, reconstruction of towns such as Wroclaw and Szczecin, and generally the Western Territories, has been slow.

I do not suggest that nothing has been done there, but the impression gained by the visitor is that the amount done is so small in relation to what remains to be done that it is not very visible and has to be pointed out. But when pointed out, even in Wroclaw you can see that in the general programme, work has been done. There are not the same visible signs of new housing estates and big blocks of flats, and the impressions both here and at Szczecin are of cities of ruins still.

Equally, I should like to see more done in the way of cleaning up and maintenance work on existing buildings, particularly in such places as Cracow. I am sure that there comes a time when the grey look of the place has a detrimental effect on the outlook of the people. And there is a time, of course, when running repairs are as important in preventing

the decay of buildings as is reconstruction of new buildings.

I hope and believe I was of some small assistance to the Polish authorities when I was in Poland. We discussed various plans and works, and there were a number of suggestions I was able to put forward and advice I was able to give. Incidentally, I was greatly impressed with the readiness with which any suggestions were listened to.



A view of the housing estate "Nowy Swiat East" in Warsaw and above the market place in Wroclaw. Lord Silkin visited both cities

I feel a further quiet and more leisurely visit would be of mutual advantage.

I am convinced that Poland has a great part to play in the future history of Europe. The people are virile, energetic, enterprising and full of enthusiasm. Poland has considerable natural resources capable of development and a rich cultural and historic background.

A Country's History in Postage Stamps

GLAMOUR AND GRIM HISTORY; CONQUEST and revival; ordinary work-people and world figures. All these, depicted in pictures, are lying, often forgotten, in stamp collections all over Britain in stamps of Poland.

Now the artistry and interest in the newest issues of the new Poland are showing up what a wealth of interest is to be found in the stamps of Poland. They are a history book and a tourist guide combined, and all in pictures. They epitomise stories of war and destruction, peace and reconstruction, despair and hope.

Poland's stamp collection goes back less than 100 years, so it is easy for anyone to come near to having a complete set. The first national stamp was not issued until January 1st, 1860, when Poland came into existence as a separate kingdom under the Vienna Treaty.

The First From Warsaw

The first change came when this stamp gave way to a series of Tsarist stamps, and marked the opening of another era of foreign domination.

Most familiar to grown-ups who were once schoolboy and schoolgirl collectors, are those designs of the Polish eagle and the familiar legend *Polski Polska* which were so plentiful in this country, and so

cheap in the dealers' lists between the wars. They originated in 1915, when the Warsaw town hall officials were made responsible for seeing that local mail was delivered safely.

The newly created Ministry of Post and Telegraph Services issued the first post-war stamps from Poland in 1918. But at first they used the stamps of the invading armies, overprinted *Poczta Polska*.

From the point of view of graphic art, production technique and the subjects pictured, the first true Polish stamps were not very interesting. With few exceptions, they showed either the State Emblem or the heads of the Government of that time.

Sailing Post Offices

The turning point came in 1928, when a special set was issued to commemorate the first All Polish Stamps Exhibition. It was produced by steel engraving by Ferdinand Schirubock, of Vienna.

There followed interesting issues for the 400th anniversary of the death of Wit-Stwosz, the sculptor (showing the Altar in the Marianski Church in Cracow), and commemorating the 250th anniversary of the victory won by Jan Sobieski the 3rd at Vienna (a motif from Jan Matejko's picture).

Later came sets picturing the national history back to the 10th century A.D.

For collectors' interest, the 1939/45 war period is outstanding.

Polish ships, both merchant and naval, that had been saved from the Nazis and sailed still under the Polish flag, had their own post office under the International Postal Convention, and used the stamps of the country under whose flag they sailed. New Polish stamps were also issued and used to mail letters from these sailing post offices.

The 1944 Committee of Polish National Liberation set up at Lublin, which saw the beginning of the liberation of Poland, had no big printing house on a proper technical level, so they ordered some of their first stamps from Moscow, although using, at the same time, the primitive Lublin printing house to issue the first local Polish stamps.

Recording Achievements

The latter appeared first on September 3rd, 1944. The sets consist of three denominations (25 groszy, 50 groszy and one zloty) with portraits of leaders of the liberation movements: T. Kosciuszko, General H. Dabrowski and R. Traugutt, head of the National Government at the period of the rising in the year 1863. The number of stamps produced was so small that they were used up in a couple of days, and the Moscow print arrived a week later.

To-day, there are special May Day stamps; pictures of Nowa Huta; replicas of the latest in trains and planes, symbolising the transport systems that are speeding the national reconstruction. There is even a charming picture of a Polish postwoman on her round.

Poland's postage stamps, more than most countries', are a vest pocket picture album of a lifetime.

An Idea From a Reader

Dear Editor,

Can we start a Polish stamp collecting club through *New Poland*?

I have started to "write" a picture book of the history of Poland by collecting Polish stamps. It is fascinating. There are pictures of old kings, conquests, national scenery, famous people like Chopin, developments like trains and planes . . .

It started when I found how many stamps of the days before the last war were still in my old schoolboy collection.

If we could start an informal club, we could exchange Polish stamps, and I am sure it would be surprising how many specimens we could dig out of friends' lumber rooms.

Who will join with me in racing to be first to reach the 100 mark?

M. LANE

New Poland

EVERY WORKER AN ARTIST all can receive training

By George Bidwell



THERE HANG ON THE WALLS OF MY FLAT MEMENTOS OF VISITS to two professional fine arts academies at opposite ends of Poland—the one in Wroclaw, and the other in Sopot, the seaside resort between Gdynia and Gdansk. From the former, I brought away a black and white drawing of a 'cellist, entitled *Rhythm*, by Professor Dawski, and from the latter, two decorated plaques by Mrs. Zulawska, a noted artist in the medium of pottery and tiles.

The Director of the Sopot Academy told me: "What we are trying to do through the art schools is first to create the widest possible field of interest in the fine arts, secondly to fit the programme of

the schools to social needs, and thirdly to make it possible for people of all ages and in all walks of life to receive an artistic training if they so desire."

I asked him if all the students graduating from the school become teachers, and got the answer: "Indeed, no. The majority of the useful arts graduates, for example, go into industry, co-operate with worker and peasant craftsmen and craftsmen in producing artistic designs for things in everyday use."

When the people of Poland took control of the economic life of their country after the Second World War, they quickly evinced a great desire to surround their lives with things of beauty—in clothes, in household decorations, in utility articles. And at the same time, more and more people became eager to try their hand at the creation of beautiful things.

A slogan has become popular in Poland to-day—*Every worker an artist*, and that slogan has led to a tremendous demand for amateur art classes in every workers' House of Culture, in every workers' and village club, in every centre of social intercourse and adult education throughout Poland.

Such fine arts groups generally meet twice a week under professional guidance given by graduates from the art schools of Wroclaw and Gdansk, of Cracow and Warsaw and other cities of Poland.

Students Are Tutors

But let us get back for a moment to that Academy of Fine Arts at Sopot. As I talked to the students, I found them enthusiastic about their opportunities. I asked one of them—obviously well over 30 years old—whether he had always wanted to study painting.

He looked speculatively at his half-completed still life study and said, "Even as a kid it was my dream. But in those days, 20 years ago, it seemed a pretty hopeless sort of dream. My parents—smallholders on poor land—were right enough, in their way, to discourage me.

In the pre-war Poland, there wasn't any hope for such as they were to get a boy into an art school—fees and maintenance and all to be found."

I asked him how things work financially for him, was he married?



"Yes, married, and twice a father," he plunged beneath his smock to fish out a photo of two bonny boys. "But it's alright," he said, "Free tuition here, and a state maintenance grant. I do some teaching, too, to an amateur group in the evenings—every student must do that, or some other form of practical work, the demand is so great. And the wife's a journalist, working with the *Baltic News*. The kids, of course, are at the kindergarten all day."

As we passed on, the Director of the Academy told me that that student was one of his best—won two competitions last year.

In another studio, I was attracted by a painting entitled *Signing on for a Better Life*. A fine looking peasant, pen in hand, was leaning over a table outside a white building on the wall of which was the inscription—*Producer Co-operative*. A voice behind me said, "Like it?", and I turned to see a fresh-complexioned, merry-eyed brunette at my elbow.

"I did it at a holiday camp," she went on. "From July to September, the Academy runs a camp in a different district every year. Students can go for a month or longer. We draw and paint outdoor subjects," the girl went on. "The instructors come in rotation. And, of

course, we tramp and bathe—and make a bit of mild whoopee in the evenings."

I told her I thought it was a splendid scheme, and she added: "Splendid in more ways than one. We exhibit our work in village clubs round about, and talk to the people who come to the shows. They have some pretty fierce criticisms to make of the work sometimes, especially if they think we have sentimentalised a scene, or not got under the skins of the people portrayed."

Another important thing about those exhibitions, of course, is that the folks in the village realise by talking to the students that the people in the Academies are of origin similar to themselves, that the days of drawing artists exclusively from intelligentsia homes are gone. So that those exhibitions encourage all sorts of people with an itch to paint to try their hand. There are other ways of encouraging that, too.

Two-Way Method

At the House of Culture at Elk, for instance, I saw a mobile exhibition of the work of amateur painters. Combined with the exhibition was a sort of snow-ball scheme. At every centre visited by the exhibition, a local competition in connection with it was held and the works submitted were afterwards exhibited and, of course, judged. From competitions like that, new talents often emerge—talents which the representatives of the Ministry of Culture pick up and, when the budding artists so desire, arrange to be trained.

At that Academy of Fine Arts at Sopot, for example, I asked one young sculptor, working on the bust of a fisherman, how he came to be enrolled, and he said: "Talent spotting committee," and then, laughing, added, "perhaps when you look at this"—and he pointed to his work—"you'll think it's time to change the committee."



I told him he was too modest, but asked him what a talent spotting committee does—apart from spotting him. He looked surprised at my ignorance and said: "Every district in Poland has its talent spotting committee with a two-way responsibility. To tell teachers and pupils in primary and secondary schools about the opportunities for training in the arts, and at the same time to keep the art schools informed about likely students."



POLAND IN PICTURES

AS
ARTISTS
SEE
IT



The Crossing by Stanislaw Zoltowski



Give Me the Bricks by A. Kobzdej



*The Miners
by
Magdalena
Wiecek*



Ceramics from the Lowicz District



Kashubian Embroidery from Kashuby, Gdansk Province



*A stove painted by a woman,
Rozalia Zatrud, a small farmer*



The Manifesto by Weiss



Pauczaki by Klara Prill



The Peasants' Insurrection in the Lesko District by Juliusz Krajewski



*The Harvest Girl by Horno-
Poplawski*

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN PAPER CUTS

STUDY THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND YOU WILL BE READY TO ENTER THE COMPETITION WHICH IS ANNOUNCED ON THE NEXT PAGE

A PATTERN can be made by repeating almost any shape — birds, trees, or animals. The Polish peasant found that if they folded leather or felt once and then cut a shape, they would end up with two shapes, the same as each other, when they unfolded the material. They used this method in decorating their clothes and leather jackets.

When coloured paper was first brought to Poland at the end of the last century they found that it was just the material needed for making these types of patterns, because the paper was thinner than the felt or leather, more elaborate designs could be cut.

There are many different sorts of patterns that can be made with paper. The simplest

is the coloured picture, where instead of using paints, pieces of coloured paper are cut to the right shapes and stuck down. These pictures were usually of weddings or harvest festivals, with everyone dressed in their Sunday best. Nowadays we sometimes see tractors and factories in these pictures.

A more complicated type is the one-fold paper cut. The paper is folded and any shape cut is therefore doubled. These are usually in one colour and the designs used are traditional, which are sometimes copied from embroidery and the glass paintings, which are also popular crafts.

Sometimes the paper is folded again to make square patterns and even folded once more to make octagonal or circular patterns.

There are also ribbon and strip patterns as well as more complicated patterns formed by folding the paper one way and cutting, then unfolding it and re-folding in a different way and cutting again.

Try This First

You can also make a very elaborate pattern by using a paper cut as a beginning and then building upon it with other smaller paper cuts in different colours. Later, after you have tried making the simpler paper cuts, you may like to try these more complicated ones in many colours.

If we decide to try to copy these paper cuts we need thin gummed coloured paper, which can be bought at any stationers or art shop, thicker coloured paper for sticking the paper cuts on, a pair of sharp scissors, a small sponge or clean rag, and lots of clean newspaper.

First we fold the gummed paper in half, with the gummed side outward, and cut a pattern (see diagrams 1 and 2). When we carefully open the paper we will find that the pattern we have cut has been doubled (see diagram 3). Then if we smooth our pattern out between two sheets of newspaper we are ready to stick it down.

To try to wet the gum on our pattern would be difficult, so with sponge or rag we damp the paper onto which we are going to put our paper cut. After this the paper cut is placed carefully on our paper and pressed down with a sheet of clean newspaper and then left to dry.

Try Different Colours

If we want to decorate a lamp-shade or tray, we can damp the lamp-shade or tray, and then place the paper cut where we want it and then smooth it down with a piece of clean newspaper as before.

There are other sorts of paper cuts which are a little more difficult to make, but if you look at the drawings 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 you can see how these are done.

You can choose your own colours. Just remember that light colours show up better on dark colours, and the other way round. I am sure you will be able to choose pleasant colours, but before you stick your paper cut down try putting it on different coloured papers until you find one that looks best.

I hope you enjoy yourselves making some paper cuts, and look forward to seeing your best designs in our competition, details of which appear on the next page.

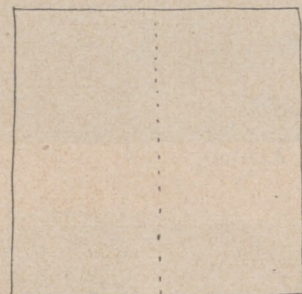


Figure 1. Fold along dotted line gummed side out

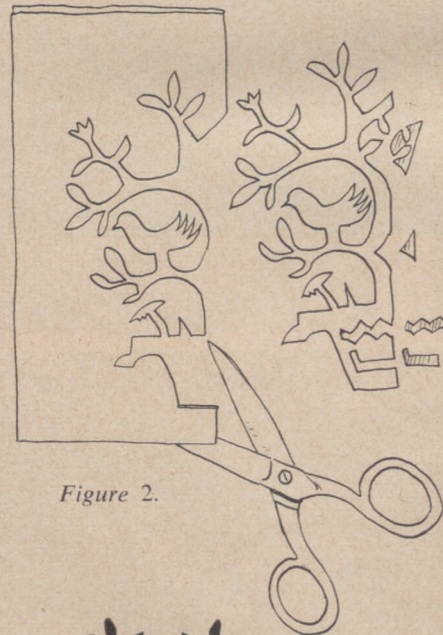


Figure 2.



The Finished Pattern

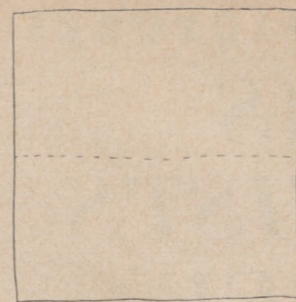


Figure 4. Fold along dotted line gummed side out

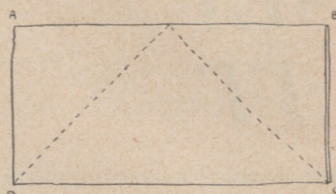


Figure 5.

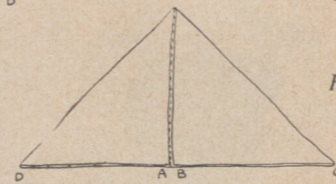


Figure 6.

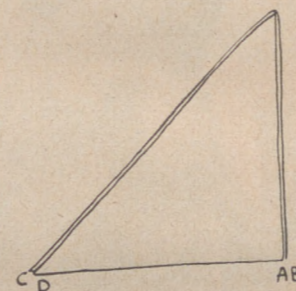


Figure 7.

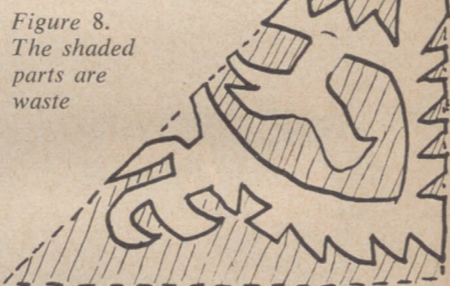
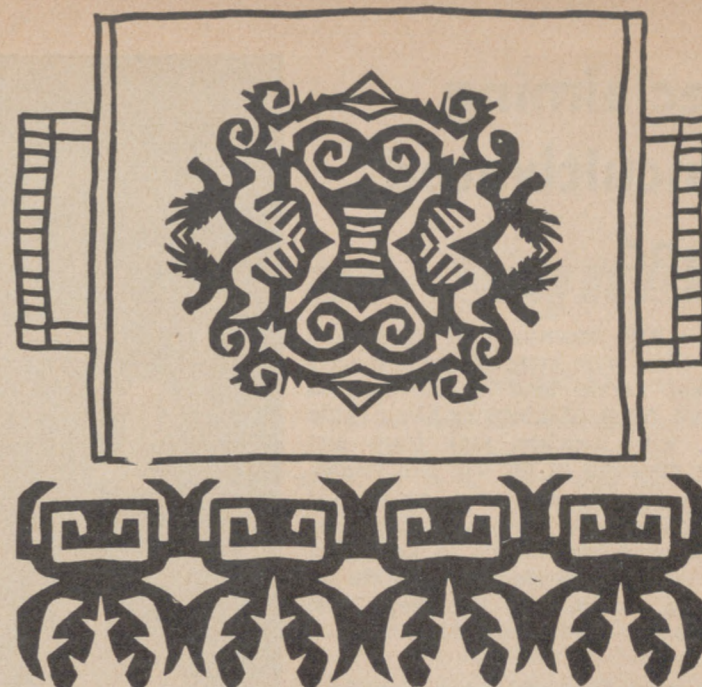


Figure 8. The shaded parts are waste



The finished pattern



These drawings show how paper-cuts can be used to decorate different things, or how they can be used in strips as a border. In the picture are women from the Kurpie Region of Poland who are famous for their paper-cuts. Note they use sheep shears instead of scissors



How to Win a Polish Paper-Cut

WE ARE OFFERING TWO PRIZES of coloured Polish paper-cuts, one for children up to the age of nine, and the other for those aged nine to fifteen.

The prizes will be awarded for the best paper-cut, in each section, sent in to us before January 7th. These will be judged for the most original designs, neatness and the choice of colours. (We do not want you to copy the paper-cuts shown in *New Poland*, they are just to show what the Polish people do. We want your own ideas.) Your paper-cut can be as big as you like, the bigger it is the easier it will be to do.

When you have done your paper-cut send it to us, the address is below, either in a stiff envelope used for photographs or between two pieces of cardboard. Write clearly on the envelope so that the postman can see it "Please do not bend."

THIS IS IMPORTANT. Write your name, age and address, in block letters in the bottom right-hand corner of your paper-cut. If you have used a coloured background, write on a piece of white paper and glue it on.

Don't forget we want all paper-cuts before January 7th sent to:

The Editor,
Paper-Cut-Competition, *New Poland*,
81 Portland Place, London, W.1.

New Poland

Reclaiming Uncultivated Land

AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR there were some one million acres of arable land uncultivated in Poland. Much of it looking like a battle field, with trenches, tank traps and other remnants of the war still visible.

This meant a substantial loss in food production, and because agricultural development was unable to keep pace with industrial development and the increasing demands of the people, the reclamation of this land became a top priority.

To attack this problem was something in the nature of a military operation. Men and machines had to be placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Agriculture in sufficient numbers and at the right time to allow for concentrated efforts in suitable localities.

But because there is a manpower shortage in Poland and because, despite increased production, there are few spare agricultural machines standing idle, the operation had to be timed so as to disrupt normal production as little as possible.

The first large scale assault accordingly, took place as harvesting finished and some skilled agricultural workers were available to lead the thousands of volunteers from towns all over the country.

A Job For All

Many students who had assisted in the gathering of the harvest switched over to the new task rather than spend the last few weeks of their vacation in idleness. Thousands of other young workers spent their holidays and week-ends on the job.

Now they are well on the way to eliminate the uncultivated land, as planned, by the end of next year.

But this job meant not only people being directly employed on the land. In the first instances the land workers lived under canvas, so houses have to be built. Machines have to be maintained and so engineers are in demand.

Also, it is not sufficient to cultivate the land and then leave it unattended. State and Co-operative farms have been given the responsibility for the continued care of most of the reclaimed land. Individual peasants are also being encouraged to take over land adjoining their own plots.

It is a tough proposition but one which is essential to the continued rise in living standards of all Polish people.



The first volunteers from Warsaw received a warm send off



After levelling, the land is ploughed by volunteers from neighbouring State Farms



Seeds arrive on schedule and are distributed to dispersal points

Three Years' Trade Agreement Signed

AS WE WENT TO PRESS, A JOINT statement issued by the British and Polish Governments announced that agreement had been reached between the two countries on future trading relations.

Full details, which are to be published in a White Paper, are not available as this is written, but it is known that import licences for £1 million worth of Polish goods are to be granted to British importers.

Among the Polish goods to be imported into this country will be foodstuffs, particularly bacon and eggs, tinned ham and other meats, and timber.

Poland is to buy from Britain £1 million worth of goods, including herrings, rayon, chemicals, and motor vehicles.

Negotiations on the extension of trade during next year are scheduled to start shortly.

Coinciding with the signing of the trade agreement a financial agreement was reached whereby Poland will pay some outstanding pre-war debts to British business people as well as compensation for British-owned property nationalised by the People's Government.

In the past, many of the things which Poland would have liked to buy from us were on the banned export list, but this list has been shortened considerably in recent months. Also, with the desire to improve living standards as rapidly as possible, Poland wants many luxury and semi-luxury consumer goods which have never been on the restricted list.

POLAND WANTS

Among the goods which Poland has already said she will import in growing quantities are:

Vacuum cleaners, refrigerators, electric and gas cookers, washing machines, plate driers and sewing machines.

Watches, cameras, radio sets, fountain pens, cycles, motor cycles, safety razors and blades, make-up articles, cosmetics, and sports equipment.

POLAND SELLS

Coal and some raw materials, foodstuffs of all kinds, crystal glass, pottery, soft timber, pit props, wood pulp for paper making, furniture, toys, especially dolls, amber and amber goods.

It should be remembered that the industrial changes taking place in Poland necessitates changes in her import and export requirements, and so the pattern may change in the future, thus giving a wider scope for British trade.

Poland, of course, still needs capital equipment, machine tools, engineering, mining and agricultural machines, but not in as large a number as previously, for now she makes her own.

The photographs show some of the Polish goods covered by the agreement



Secretary's Letter

By Bill Ellerby

THE SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL members and friends. May I remind members that our Christmas and New Year card is now on sale—6d. per copy, including envelope, or 5/- per dozen. Provincial members can have a sample copy on request, London members can see a sample copy in the Warsaw Club. Please order early.

Our Children's Party on October 30th was a great success—148 children and about 40 adults. It will be followed by a further party for children on the afternoon of January 1st. Applications for tickets, price 1/-, should be made without delay.

Accent On Youth

Next year the accent will be on *Youth*. The World Youth Festival will be held in Warsaw, and, as the British-Polish Friendship Society, we have a responsibility to try to ensure that those going to the Festival from Britain are given the opportunity to learn something about Poland before they go. With this end in view we propose holding meetings, socials and film shows for youth in the new year.

As a prelude to these efforts we held a Youth Social last month to which we invited the London members of the Youth Delegation, which visited Poland under the auspices of the Polish Cultural Institute, in order that they could meet the remaining guests who came from a very wide range of organisations and were, therefore, a reasonable cross-section of Britain's youth.

Token of Esteem

December 11th will be the occasion of another Youth event—the Polish Cultural Institute is organising a report-back meeting in Friends House, Euston Road, London, for their Youth Delegation. This delegation, which included two Quakers and members of various Youth Organisations, should be in a position to make an interesting report. They saw a great deal in the eighteen days they were in Poland, and the Press Statement issued by them on their return gives some indication of the degree to which their interest was aroused.

The members' Christmas Dance will be held on Saturday, December 18th. Admission will be strictly by ticket only—so if you want to come please make

an early application for tickets—3/6 each, cash with order.

A very pleasing ceremony took place prior to the Executive Committee on Thursday, November 11th. The Committee held a small reception in honour of Mrs. Ann Herbert who resigned from the position of Secretary on the occasion of her marriage last August. Mrs. Herbert received a small gift as a token of the Committee's regard and affection for her. Although Mrs. Herbert has left the offices of the Society, she is still very active. At the Cultural Institute's Exhibition at Brighton in October, she spoke to 1,360 children in 67 groups. This Exhibition also attracted some 900 adult visitors to whom about 100 copies of *New Poland* were sold!

Countrywide Activity

Mr. Roy Sear's provincial visits of October and November are bearing fruit. Following the successful film show and meeting in Darnall, Sheffield, arrangements are under way for a Polish Social in Sheffield early in December, and a possible further meeting in January. At about the same time, thanks to the help given by our representative, Irene Johnson, *The Last Stage* will be shown in Nelson, and a *Delegates' Forum* is to be held there in January. Early December will also see a film show and meeting in Bradford with Mr. Laurie Lloyd among

For Your Diary

Wednesday, December 1st:

Club Night, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, December 2nd:

Film show and meeting, L. Lloyd and A. Davies, Mechanics Institute, Bradford, 7.30 p.m.

Friday, December 3rd:

"Germany — What can happen now?" Gordon Schaffer, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, December 4th:

Dance, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

Sunday, December 5th:

Film show and meeting, I. Johnson and *The Last Stage*, Weavers' Hall, Nelson, 7.15 p.m.

Wednesday, December 8th:

Club Night, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

the speakers. Efforts are also being made to arrange meetings in Liverpool, Nottingham and Manchester for the first half of December.

Scotland was active with seven film shows and two other meetings during October. The report on the programme for November was not available when we went to press, but we know that our Scottish Committee under Mr. Charles Nixon is very actively engaged in the work of the Society.

A Good Seller

Our Report *Britons See Poland in 1954* is proving popular and selling well—we have already disposed of some 1,500 copies. Many members are helping in this work but many more have not so far produced any results. If you have not ordered any on sale or return (one-third discount on six or more copies) may I appeal to you to do so now. We have plenty of evidence that they are not difficult to sell, and our membership should provide a very wide circulation and sale for this important document.

The tragic death of Mr. W. C. Stevens, secretary of the E.T.U., is a loss to international friendship and in particular to British-Polish friendship. In recent years his Union has established very close ties with their Polish counterparts, a Polish fraternal delegate attended their annual conference this year. In August, 1951, an official delegation from the E.T.U. visited Poland and since then several individual official delegates have been guests of the Polish Electrical Power Workers' Union. On behalf of the Executive Committee and members of the Society I have sent a letter of condolence to the Union and have received an acknowledgment which stated that my letter had been passed on to Mrs. Stevens.

Saturday, December 11th:

Youth Delegation Report Back Meeting, Friends House, Euston Road, London, organised by the Cultural Institute, 7.0 p.m.
Social, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 15th:

Club Night, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, December 18th:

Grand Christmas Dance, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m., tickets 3/6 each.

Wednesday, December 22nd:

Club Night, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 29th:

Club Night, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, January 1st:

Children's Party.

Every Wednesday Night is Club Night at the Warsaw Club

New Poland

IDEAS FROM POLAND



Roast Turkey with Sultanas

Turkey
Calves or poultry liver ... 6 ozs.
Eggs 3
Butter or margarine 2 ozs.
Bread crumbs 2 ozs.
Salt and flavouring
Sultanas 4 ozs.
Butter 2 ozs.

To prepare stuffing:—Separate egg yolks and stir with 2 ozs. of butter, add bread crumbs, minced liver, sugar to taste, chopped parsley and nutmeg. Stir into a smooth paste. Beat whites of eggs into a stiff froth, mix with the paste, add sultanas and stir lightly. Stuff the bird and fasten with wooden skewers or sew up. Cook in a very hot oven until light gold in colour. Carve together with the stuffing.

Roast Turkey with Chestnut Stuffing

Turkey
Butter or margarine 2 ozs.
Chestnuts 1 lb.
Salt
Butter or margarine 4 ozs.

Prick chestnuts lightly with fork or knife, put into cold water, bring to the boil and leave for a further eight minutes. Take out and peel, then cook them in butter until tender without breaking the chestnuts. Stuff gills and fasten with wooden skewers or sew up. Put turkey and gills in a roasting tin, add butter and roast in a very hot oven until skin gets brown. Lower oven temperature and finish cooking by basting frequently with gravy. When ready, take out the chestnuts and garnish the dish.

Roast Turkey with Veal Stuffing

Turkey
Tinned veal 1 lb.
Onions 4 ozs.
Fresh bacon 4 ozs.
Dry bread roll 4 ozs.
Milk ½ pint
Butter or margarine 4 ozs.
Capers 1 oz.
Eggs 3
Salt and pepper
Butter or margarine 2 ozs.

Salt the bird lightly and leave for a while. Soak bread roll in milk. Chop onions and fry gently. Mince veal with bread roll, onions, capers and bacon. Stir the four ounces of butter with egg yolks, mix with paste, mash thoroughly and season to taste.

Beat the egg whites, add to the mixture, stirring gently. Stuff the bird, fasten with wooden skewers and cook in a hot oven, basting frequently.

The above stuffing can, of course, be used in smaller quantities for geese or chicken.

New Poland

Fruit Cake

Eggs 5
Sugar 7 ozs.
Butter or margarine ... 3 ozs.
Flour 7 ozs.
Sultanas 2 ozs.
Figs 2 ozs.
Almonds 2 ozs.
Nuts 2 ozs.
Orange peel 2 ozs.
Icing sugar

Separate egg yolks from whites. Scald and skin almonds. Mix with fruits and orange peel, figs and peel having been chopped previously. Cream yolks with butter and sugar. Beat whites into a stiff froth and fold into yolks, add flour and fruit, stir. Put into a long buttered tin and bake in a very hot oven for about 45 minutes. Coat with icing sugar. Cut on the following day.

Rum Biscuit

Eggs 4
Sugar 4 ozs.
Rum 8 ozs.
Almonds 1½ ozs.
Jam 7 ozs.

Separate egg yolks from whites. Mix yolks with sugar, add jam and rum and mix again thoroughly. Beat whites and fold lightly with yolks. Turn the mixture into a tin, smooth the surface, sprinkle with almonds and bake in a moderate oven. Coat with icing sugar and serve hot.

Almond Biscuits

Eggs 3
Icing sugar 5 ozs.
Flour 5 ozs.
Castor sugar 1 oz.
Almonds 2 ozs.
Sultanas or raisins 2 ozs.

Scald almonds in boiling water, skin and slice thin, mix with sultanas and castor sugar, add eggs and flour and stir. Turn the mixture into a buttered tin, spread evenly, coat with almonds and bake in a hot oven until a light golden colour. Cut into biscuits while still hot and put on a glass dish, coat with icing sugar. Serve with cream, stewed fruit or ice-cream.

Chocolate Cream

Milk 1 pint
Vanilla 1 stick
Chocolate 8 ozs.
Sugar 4 ozs.
Gelatine 1 oz.
Cream ½ pint

Boil milk with vanilla, add chocolate and sugar, stir and leave until the chocolate melts.

Wash the gelatine in cold water. Scald in a cup with a few tablespoonfuls of boiling water, leave to melt over steam. Add melted gelatine to the milk and chocolate. Whisk, with egg whisk, until cold. Whip cream separately, mix with cooled chocolate, turn into a mould previously rinsed in cold water, and refrigerate. Before serving, warm the mould slightly, turn the cream on a dish and serve with biscuits.

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POINTS FROM POLAND

Work has started on the first block of flats for the new central district of Warsaw which will surround the Stalin Palace of Culture and Science.

Work has also been started on the second Socialist town in Silesia. It is Nowa Dabrowa in the Stalinogrod Province. Nowe Tychy is the first new town in this district.

Also in the Stalinogrod Province, at Sabinow, a new plant for processing ore with a fifteen per cent iron content is being built. It will be Poland's first plant of this kind.

On November 2nd Poland's first-ever electric furnace for the production of malleable cast iron went into production at the Staroleka Harvesting Machinery Factory, Poznan.

The following day, the first Polish tanning extracts factory was opened in Bydgoszcz.

During November the entire fleet of the Dalmor Fishing Enterprise fished the English Channel where daily catches of up to 18 tons of herrings were reported.

The Exhibition of Polish Architecture which was so well received in Glasgow and London during the summer, opened in New York last month.

A documentary film of the Warsaw-Berlin-Prague cycle race, in which the British riders did so well in May, has been released in Poland. It is called *In Pursuit of the Yellow Jersey*, the winner of each stage wore a yellow jersey on the following lap.

Production targets for the Polish machine tool industry for the first nine months of this year have been surpassed by two per cent.

During the ten years of its existence (it celebrated its tenth anniversary on October 16th), the Czytelnik Co-operative Publishing House issued 2,100 books in a total of 38,000,000 copies.

During the two months it was open over 1,100,000 people visited the Exhibition of Invention and Technical Progress in Wroclaw.

A delegation of six represented Poland at the Eighth Session of the UNESCO General Conference which opened in Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, last month.

Forty-eight amateurs have qualified for the finals of Poland's first national contest for wind instruments. In addition, fifty-four professionals will compete.

The Soviet composer, V. Muradeli, has written a song called *Men of Peace* which he has dedicated to Polish Soviet friendship.

Drawings by fifty-two Polish primary school children are to be shown at an International Exhibition of Children's Drawings in India.

A Chopin Museum and Library will be opened in Warsaw on the fifth anniversary of the International Chopin Competition next February.

In Paris, recently on business, Bernard Joseph found his trip coincided with that of the famous Polish Ensemble. Here he writes his impressions of the first night showing of

Mazowsze in Paris

THE CHOIR, FOUR ROWS DEEP—TWO with girls, two with men. A solo singer, a girl in the bright, striped dress of the Kurpie region. The kaleidoscopic variations of the Opoczynski, a jolly Oberek, with the men vigorously to the fore. The Walczyk, or *little waltz*, and the women gracefully forming patterns as partners weave to and fro. Costumes in olive and leaf green, purple and pink, white and glowing reds. . . .

These are fragments of the memory of Polish songs and dances and the famous *Mazowsze* ensemble performing in Paris a few weeks ago.

The audience at the Théâtre National du Palais de Chaillot, overlooking the Seine, gave the Polish artists a great reception. They clapped a greeting when the curtain went up—and the ensemble clapped in return. Then came the songs and the dances. Some of them were ones known to us here from records or the film of *Mazowsze*, but they were enjoyed all over again and all the more for the live presence of the performers themselves.

French Link

Ogarek, Badoska—"Sun, go down; we're tired with working in the fields. . . . If you had to shine for a living, you'd be glad to get to bed bedtimes. . . ." goes the old song—Kondzialeszka, Dolina, Kukulieszka—the girl, thinking of her suitors, asks "Cuckoo, can you tell me who's the

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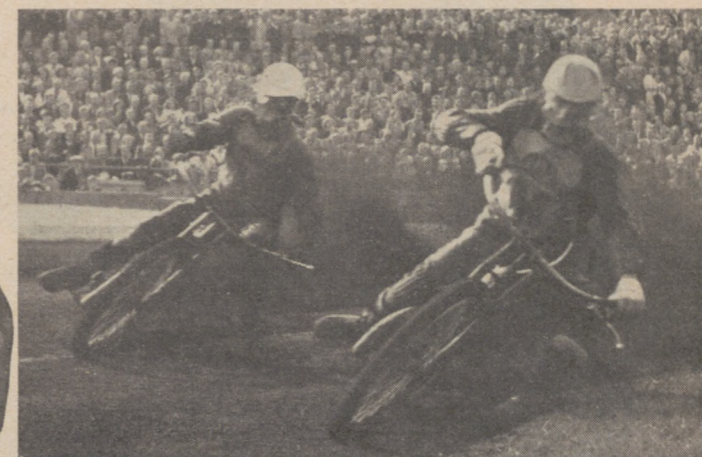
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SPEEDWAY racing has gained great popularity in Poland since the war. It now has a grip on the Polish fans similar to that when it swept this country in the early thirties.

Recently the Monarkerna Club from Stockholm, Sweden, competed against a team selected from Polish Trade Union clubs. Two matches were held, one in Warsaw and one in Wroclaw, the Swedes winning both by 63:45 and 62:45 respectively.

The top picture shows the Swedish riders, Forsberg and Fahlen getting a double. In the lower picture the position is reversed with the home team getting both places. Suchacki and Sawendrowaki being the point scorers.

Scrambles are also popular and our photograph on the right shows the Polish women's champion. She is Leokadia Kobus, of the Central Motorcycle Club of the League of Soldiers' Friends.

The "energetic type" above who spurns an engine is Marian Wiekowski, this year's winner of the Tour of Poland. Divided into twelve stages, the Tour of Poland is about 1,250 miles in length.

Kiev Dynamo Football Club, Soviet Cup-Holders, lost 5-0 to Unia, Poland's First Division Leaders, last month.





During the period of the camp's existence there were prisoners of twenty-six different nationalities and towards the end of that time, when the camp was almost wholly used for extermination, the majority were Jews. Few of them had committed any offence; they were there simply because they were Poles, Jews, Gipsies or Soviet prisoners of war . . .

. . . Such was Auschwitz, the "Camp of Death"; but it is only half the story. Were everything written it would not be read. If read, it would not be believed.

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Sunday	7.30 p.m.—Cultural Programme

Every Monday a Chopin concert is broadcast from 2.00 to 2.30 p.m. GMT on 407 metres.

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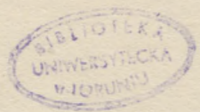
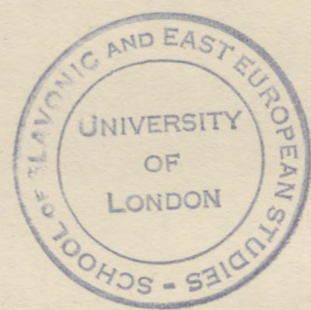
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