

# The Polish Review

*Différence* *0.3674018943*



## Ambassador Jan Ciechanowski's Letter to "Life"

MR. JAN CIECHANOWSKI, Polish Ambassador to the United States, addressed the following letter to Mr. Henry R. Luce, editor of "Life," in response to an article by the Hon. Joseph E. Davies, former Ambassador of the United States to Russia, published in its issue of March 29th.

Dear Mr. Luce:

I regard it as my duty to rectify some inaccurate statements contained in the article entitled "The Soviets and the Post-War" by the Hon. Joseph E. Davies, former U.S. Ambassador to the U.S.S.R., which appeared in the special issue of "Life" of March 29th, 1943, and I take the liberty of asking you kindly to publish this letter in the next issue of "Life."

It is not my intention to express any views concerning the general trend of Mr. Davies's article, but as Representative of Poland in the United States, I feel I must at least correct the most important inaccuracies directly concerning Poland, contained in that article.

(1) Ambassador Davies's statement that Poland's Eastern territories were "carved out of and taken away from Russia" is both incorrect and misleading because it implies that these territories were seized by force and held by Poland against the will of the U.S.S.R.

The real facts of the matter are as follows:

After the world war Poland's independence was restored. The Polish-Russian frontier was fixed by virtue of the Treaty concluded in Riga on March 18, 1921, directly and freely negotiated by the plenipotentiaries of Poland and Soviet Russia, and Soviet Ukraine and was recognized officially by the Allied Powers by the Conference of Ambassadors on March 15, 1923.

It should be remembered that already on September 9, 1918, the Soviet Government published a Decree dated August 29, 1918, cancelling all treaties concerning the partitions of Poland of 1772, 1793, and 1795, as well as all subsequent treaties relating to Poland up to 1833. Article Three of this Soviet Russian Decree states:

"All agreements and acts concluded by the Government of the late Russian Empire with the Governments of Prussia and of the Austro-Hungarian Empire relating to the partitions of Poland are for ever annulled by the present Resolution, considering that they are contrary to the principle of free determination of peoples as well as to the juridical revolutionary conception of the Russian Nation which has recognized to the Polish Nation the 'imprescriptible' right to decide of its own fate and its unification."

This Decree was signed by Lenin, Karakhan and Bonch-Bruyevich and was officially communicated to the Government of the German Reich on October 3, 1918.

By virtue of this Decree Poland had the right to the restitution of all the territories which belonged to her before the first partition of Poland in 1772, but by the Treaty of Riga Poland renounced her right to a substantial part of these territories. This is clearly evident from Article III of the Treaty which stipulates that

"...Russia and the Ukraine renounce all rights and claims as regards the territories situated westward of the frontier, as defined under Article II of the present Treaty. Poland on her side renounces, in favor of the Ukraine and White Russia, all rights and claims as regards the territories, situated eastward of the aforesaid frontier.

"Should the area situated westward of the frontier as fixed by Article II of the present Treaty, include territories being under dispute between Poland and Lithuania, the question of the sovereignty of either of the two States over these territories concerns exclusively Poland and Lithuania..."

(2) Further in his article Ambassador Davies says that "Five million Ukrainians were arbitrarily converted into Polish citizens after the last war." This statement is incorrect.

As a result of the freely negotiated Polish-Soviet Treaty of Riga, the acquisition of citizenship of the populations living on

both sides of the Polish-Soviet border was a natural consequence of that Treaty. The citizenship of these populations was never assailed or questioned by either of the two signatories to the Riga Treaty. The interests of Polish citizens of Ukrainian nationality were fully represented in the Polish Parliament by their numerous elected representatives. The number of Ukrainian members of Parliament varied from 22 to 43 in the course of the five parliamentary elections held in Poland during the peace period. At no time since the signature of the Riga Treaty did that population ever express the wish to be incorporated to Soviet Russia or to Soviet Ukraine. Since the signing of the Riga Treaty up to the Soviet invasion of Poland in September 1939, Poland's territorial status was never assailed or questioned by the U.S.S.R. Likewise, in the course of the same period, Poland never laid any claim to territories of the U.S.S.R.

In the light of these facts, Mr. Davies's assertion about arbitrary enforcing of Polish citizenship on the Ukrainians in Poland is entirely unfounded.

(3) Contrary to Mr. Davies's assertion, there was no such thing as a "Curzon Commission under the Versailles Treaty" and the Conference of Versailles did not settle the Eastern boundaries of Poland. Nor was the so-called "Curzon Line" the "line of racial demarcation of Polish and Russian nationalities."

The so-called "Curzon Line" was a tentative demarcation line which Lord Curzon, then British Foreign Secretary, suggested in July, 1920, as a possible temporary armistice line in the hope of stopping Soviet-Polish hostilities. At that time it was rejected by the U.S.S.R. and, on the termination of Polish-Soviet hostilities, free negotiations between Poland and Soviet Russia culminated in the signing of the Riga Treaty which finally settled the frontier.

(4) In another paragraph of his article Ambassador Davies states that it was Poland who has now raised what he is pleased to call "these controversial frontier matters," and that this was done contrary to the "implied consent to the postponement of the determination of the issue until after victory."

This is also a misstatement of facts. The Polish Government did not raise the boundary issue for the simple reason that it continues to regard the Polish-Russian border as definitely fixed by the Treaty of Riga. Moreover, in Paragraph 1 of the Treaty signed between the Polish and the Soviet Government on July 30, 1941, it is stated: "The Government of the U.S.S.R. recognizes the Soviet-German treaties of 1939 as to territorial changes in Poland as having lost their validity." The consequence of this statement is clear: The Soviet-German agreements partitioning Poland having thus been explicitly nullified, Poland's territorial status quo previous to September 1, 1939, as determined by the Riga Treaty, must be regarded as being in force.

The attempt to raise a controversy on the subject of the Polish-Soviet frontier was first publicly made by Mr. Alexander Kornejtchuk, member of the Supreme Council of the U.S.S.R., recently appointed Deputy Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union. Mr. Kornejtchuk published an article in the official organ of the Communist Party "Pravda," reported from Moscow on February 20, 1943, by special cable to the New York Times, and reproduced and circulated in the Information Bulletin of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, No. 19, of February 25, 1943. This in fact was the first public statement issued by a high ranking Soviet spokesman assailing Poland's rights in regard to her territorial status.

In view of Mr. Kornejtchuk's statement of February 20, the Polish Government in London published an official statement on February 25, 1943, in which among others the Polish Government declares that "so far as the question of frontiers between Poland and Soviet Russia is concerned the status quo previous to September 1, 1939 is in force, and it considers that undermining this attitude which is in line with the Atlantic Charter, is detrimental to the unity of the Allied Nations..."

This goes to prove that, contrary to Mr. Davies's contention, Poland's eastern boundary was first publicly questioned by a Soviet Government spokesman.

J. CIECHANOWSKI,  
Ambassador of Poland.

# The Polish Review

VOL. III, No. 17

MAY 3, 1943

Weekly Magazine Published by

THE POLISH INFORMATION CENTER

745 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Annual Subscription Four Dollars

Single Copy Ten Cents

## THIRD OF MAY CONSTITUTION, 1791-1943

**D**ECLARING that the fate of us all depends solely on the establishment and perfection of the National Constitution, having by long experience recognized the deep-rooted defects of our Government, and desirous to take advantage of the state in which Europe is today, and . . . of this time of collapse that has freed us from the shameful dictation of foreign violence; holding dearer than life and personal happiness the political existence, external independence and internal freedom of the nation, whose fate has been entrusted to us; anxious to earn the blessing and gratitude of present and future generations; we have resolved, with the greatest constancy of spirit and despite the obstacles that our passions may engender, upon the present Constitution for the general good and to insure the freedom of our Motherland and to defend her and her frontiers; and we declare this Constitution to be absolutely sacred and inviolable until such time as in accordance with law and the clearly expressed will of the people, the Nation shall declare the need of amending it.

—From the preamble to the Constitution of the Third of May, 1791.

**N**DEED, we have an Act of the past, a written law that we should take to heart and with the spirit of which we should be imbued. For this law did not come from the brain of a single sage, from the lips of a few doctrinaires, but was drawn from the heart of the great masses. It is not merely written in black on white, but it lives on in memory, in the yearnings of generations, and so it is a living law, rooted in the past, to be developed in the future. We have the Constitution of the Third of May. During our long enslavement, the day of its proclamation has been observed in secret, in all the provinces of old Poland from the Carpathians to the Dzwina, in the homes, in the churches, at gatherings of our youth. This was not prompted by homage to the dead alone, nor by the fact that the Constitution of the Third of May was killed right after its birth: for there have been many who died likewise and to no one of them have been or are similar memorial tributes paid.

In the Constitution of the Third of May . . . the national element, the offspring of past traditions, is nurtured on the new, contemporary needs of the nation. Many years of bondage have not destroyed this element. Hence, it has been beautifully said that the Constitution of the Third of May is "the political testament of former Poland."

—Adam Mickiewicz in the Polish Pilgrim, May 3, 1833, published in Paris.

**A**LL circulating libraries of the district of Warsaw were ordered on November 16, 1940, to submit their catalogues for inspection by the German authorities. Two weeks later the lists were returned with several thousand titles crossed out. Numerous historical works such as Zakrzewski's monograph on Boleslaw Chrobry were removed. Books on Silesia, Lodz, Poznan, Gdynia, Danzig, the Baltic, and the sea in general were all stricken out. Among the books banned are all whose titles include words such as "Legions," "enemy," "knight," "front," "sabre," "revolution," "insurrection," or anything that can even remotely inspire a desire for revenge. All books on Polish independence movements during the 19th century and on all persons connected with them have been withdrawn. All books that refer, if only in their title, to Polish exploits of arms or to Polish political thought, are proscribed. All literature on the Constitution of the Third of May, 1791, has been removed.

—From an underground report from Occupied Poland.

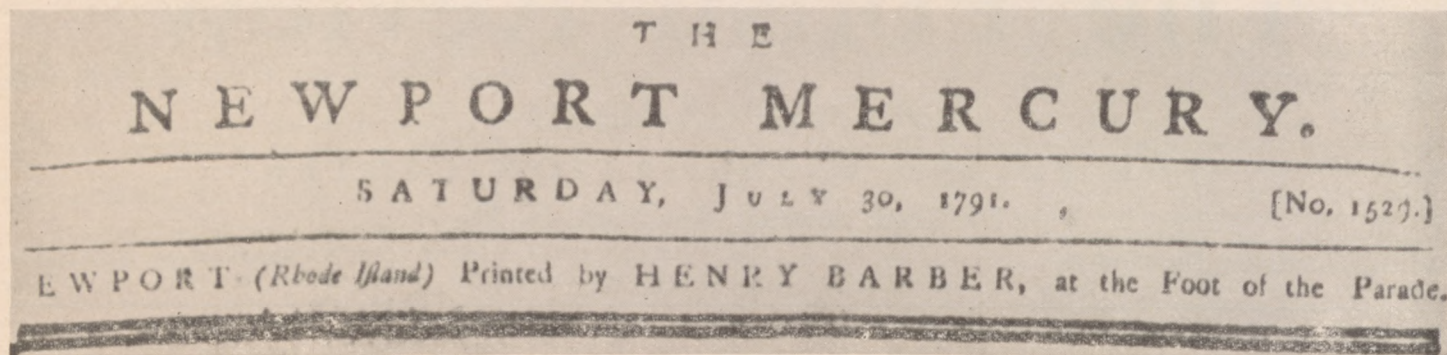


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# Contemporary American Newspapers



POLAND'S bloodless revolution of 1791 was reported in great detail by the United States newspapers of the day. Long before the Constitution of the Third of May was ratified, *The Newport Mercury* of July 30, 1791 printed a dispatch from London entitled "Revolution in Poland" dated from Warsaw, April 16, 1791, stating:

"Political events are expected here, which will excite universal astonishment. . . ."

"The 14th of April, the day before yesterday, will hereafter be a memorable day in the annals of Poland. In the Session of that day a law was passed by the Diet relative to cities and their inhabitants, which restores them to their primitive rights, associates them with the Legislative Power, and will serve as a basis for still more extensive regulations, to reduce the different orders of citizens, to that relative quality, which constitutes the very soul of a solid and just constitution. Upon this occasion, the plan of M. Suchorzewski, member for Kalish, was adopted. The substance of the principles which have been decreed agreeable to this project, is, "to destroy the difference of orders and classes, to grant liberty to all citizens, without distinction; to restore Nobility to its true origin, that is, to the prerogative of merit and virtue; but at the same time, to effect these different changes by degrees, and with such precautions as will procure the success of them." Poland may therefore date her restoration from that day; for, with such principles as these, uniformly followed up, she will become powerful from her external strength, and will be truly independent."

Then follows a short comparison with the French Revolution. The article ends by quoting M. Niemcewicz, Member for Livonia, who spoke of the "exclusion of all such as are not Nobles, from offices of trust and honours. He said: "None of us knows who were the ancestors, or what was the religion of Washington and Franklin; but all of us know what important services these Illustrious Characters rendered to their country. Let not, therefore, the modesty of citizens prescribe

## THE NEWPORT MERCURY. SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1791. [No. 1527.]

### WARSAW (Poland) APRIL 16.

Political events are expected here, which will excite universal astonishment. Our sheet has learned, from those of Austria and Prussia, how much mystery frequently proves advantageous in operations of the nature of those in which we are at present engaged.

The 14th of April, the day before yesterday, will hereafter be a memorable day in the annals of Poland. In the Session of that day a law was passed by the Diet relative to cities and their inhabitants, which restores them to their primitive rights, associates them with the Legislative Power, and will serve as a basis for still more extensive regulations, to reduce the different orders of citizens, to that relative quality, which constitutes the very soul of a solid and just constitution. Upon this occasion, the plan of M. Suchorzewski, member for Kalish, was adopted. The substance of the principles which have been decreed agreeable to this project, is, "to destroy the difference of orders and classes, to grant liberty to all citizens, without distinction; to restore Nobility to its true origin, that is, to the prerogative of merit and virtue; but at the same time, to effect these different changes by degrees, and with such precautions as will procure the success of them." Poland may therefore date her restoration from that day; for, with such principles as these, uniformly followed up, she will become powerful from her external strength, and will be truly independent.

When the National Assembly of France reduced the Nobility to an equality with the citizens, the greater number of its members consisted of the *Tiers Etat*; but when Poland raised her citizens to that equality, the Diet consisted of Nobility only. And yet there was no division within doors, nor contention without. Eloquent and persuasive as the King is on all occasions, on this he seemed to out do himself. The subject touched his heart; he spoke with an uncommon degree of fire and enthusiasm, and his hearers caught the flame.

Count Malschouky and Prince Sapieha, Marshals of the Diet, were particularly animated and happy in the arrangement and solidity of their arguments. Prince Adam Czartoryski, Witwicki, and Niemcewicz, Members for Livonia, also distinguished themselves in a remarkable manner: "None of us," said this last gentleman, speaking of the exclusion of all such as are not Nobles, from offices of trust and honours, "knows who were the ancestors, or what was the religion of WASHINGTON and FRANKLIN; but all of us know what important services these Illustrious Characters rendered to their country. Let not, therefore, the modesty of citizens prescribe limits to our generosity. Let us not ask, nor look into old papers to ascertain, what they have a right to demand; but let us grant them, out of our own free accord, all that the welfare of our own country requires that they should possess."

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Another United States newspaper, the *Kentucky Gazette* of September 1, 1791 (see back cover) printed the full account of the ratification of the Constitution of the 3rd of May.

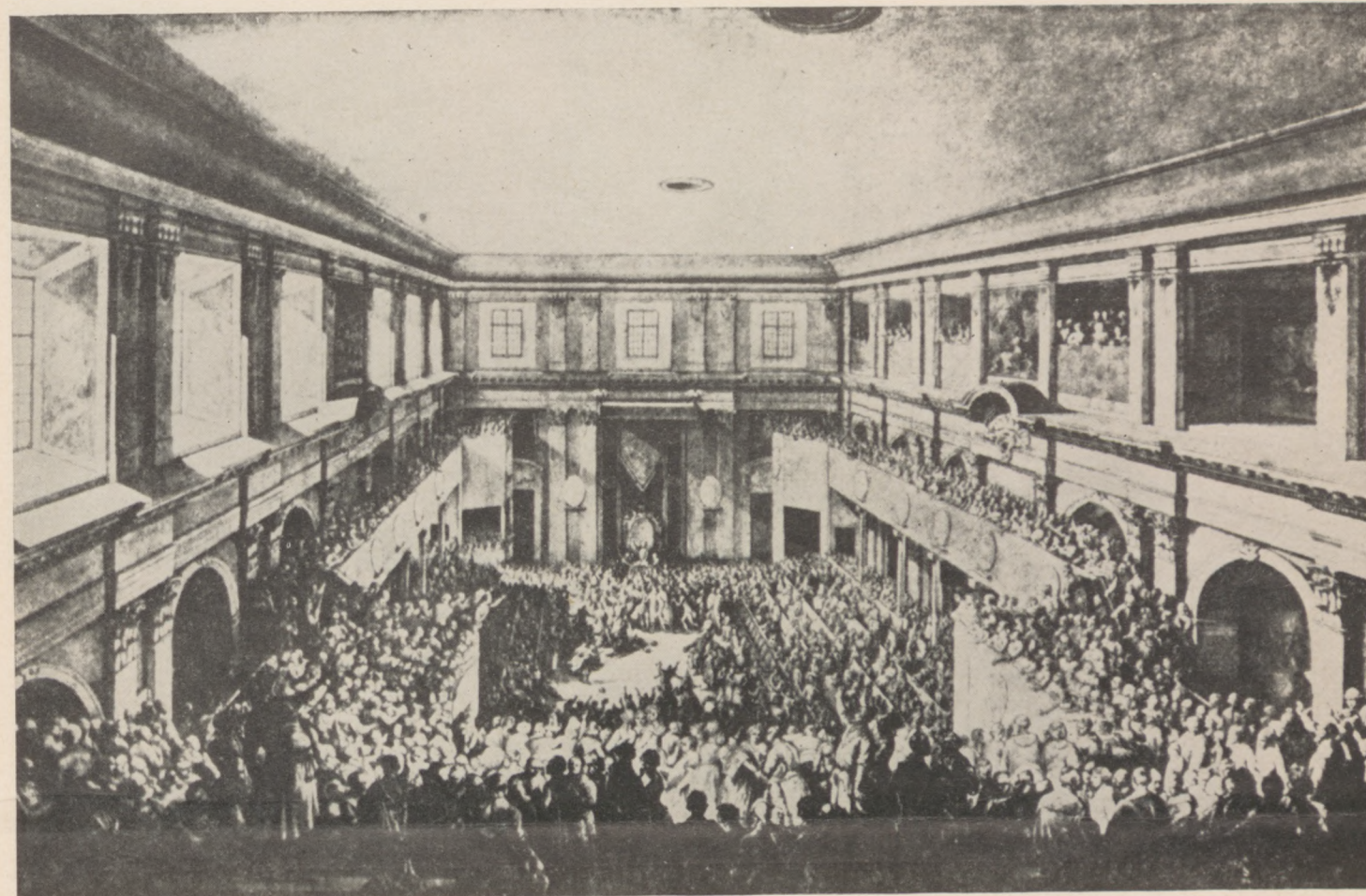
"At three o'clock in the morning of May 3rd, a number of patriots, who had preconcerted the great objects which they meant to accomplish in the sitting of the Diet that day, assembled in the King's chamber. There, in the presence of the King, they engaged to effectuate the Revolution that day, and they pledged themselves to each other, by a solemn engagement, not to separate until they had accomplished their end."

The King opened the assembly himself. The galleries were crowded and huge crowds gathered around the building.

"He said in substance, that 'notwithstanding all assurances to the contrary, there was an alarming rumour, confirmed by the advices daily received, that the three neighbouring powers (Russia, Prussia and Austria) would make up and terminate all their jealousies and divisions, at the expense of the possessions of the republic; that the only method of assuring to Poland the integrity of its possessions, and of preserving it from the ruin which foreign politics were preparing for it was to establish a Constitution, which should secure its internal independence. That in this view there had been prepared a plea of a Constitution founded principally on those of England, and the United States of America, but avoiding the faults and errors of both, and adapting it as much as possible to the local and particular circumstances of the country.'

"In support of the information relative to the foreign powers, the King communicated to the Diet some dispatches received from the Minister of the Republic at foreign courts; stating how eager they were to oppose all settlement of the Constitution

# Report on 3rd of May Constitution



DECLARATION OF THE THIRD OF MAY CONSTITUTION IN THE POLISH DIET (SEYM)  
By Jan Piotr Norblin (1745-1830)

and that every thing seemed to announce their hostile designs on Poland."

Then followed a debate against making the Monarchy hereditary. The King accepted the Constitution and received the oath from the Bishop of Cracovia. Those assembled swore with him.

"Every man that loves his country" exclaimed his Majesty, "follow me to the church, and thanking God, let us repeat the oath at the altar." All the Bishops, all the secular senators, with a great number of Nuncios or representatives accompanied the King to the church, and there again they solemnly engaged before the Supreme Being and their Country, to maintain a Constitution, which combining liberty with subordination, and subjecting the first citizen as well as the last to the law, secures to all the means of happiness, and gives to each citizen the true enjoyment of his rights. It was by that time eleven o'clock in the evening. Te Deum was sung and the new Constitution was announced to the people by the discharge of 200 pieces of cannon. There were but between thirty and forty Nuncios who did not follow the King to the Church. The King with his suite, returned to the Assembly house and adjourned the Diet to the 5th of May, after charging the Marshals to give the oath to the Departments. . . . Cries of joy filled the streets, but this joy was the expression of a pure and calm patriotism. Through the whole day there was not the smallest confusion, nor disorder, nor cries. At eleven o'clock the streets were so perfectly calm, that one would hardly believe that it had been the epoch of a new order of things.

"In the sitting of the 5th May, the new form of Constitution was again proposed.—The members present signed it unanimously, and they formally passed sentence by sentence, the twelve articles of which it is composed, and which are as follow:

1. The Catholic Religion shall be the governing religion of the states, and the King shall profess it. But all other forms of worship shall be admitted, and a general toleration, civil and religious shall be a fundamental law of the Kingdom.
2. The ancient privileges and rights of the Noblesse are approved and confirmed.
3. At the same time all the rights and privileges of the people affected, renewed or granted to them during the present Diet, are equally ratified and confirmed.
4. All strangers who shall arrive and settle in Poland shall enjoy full and entire liberty.
5. The peasantry are taken under the protection of the laws and the government. They are relieved from all arbitrary impositions, and do depend, henceforth, in what regards their rights and labours, only on the contracts which they shall make with their seigniors. All foreign labourers are free to enter and settle in Poland, or to depart, fulfilling only the obligations of the contracts they may have made with the proprietors of the soil.
6. The government of Poland shall be composed of three branches, or distinct parts—the legislative power, the

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(Continued from page 5)  
executive power, and the judicial power.

7. The legislative power belongs exclusively to the states assembled in Diet, and composed of two connected chambers, to wit, the senate and the chamber of nuncios.

8. The King shall exercise the executive power with his council. This council shall be composed of the primate and five ministers who shall each have a department. No order of the King can be put in execution unless it is signed by the ministers, whose lives and fortunes shall be responsible to each Diet for the orders they shall sign. As soon as two thirds of the Diet shall demand a change of ministers, the King shall be bound to dismiss them, and name others in their place.

9. The election of King shall never fall hereafter on an individual. A whole family shall be elected when the Royal family shall be extinct. Thus after the decease of reigning King (for whose long life the estates and the nation make the most fervent prayer) the reigning elector of Saxony and his male descendants after him shall succeed to the throne of Poland. If he shall have no male issue, Mary Augusta Nepomacene, his only daughter, now declared infant of Poland, shall be queen, and her husband, whom the states assembled shall choose for her, shall wear the crown and form the stock, from which shall spring a new Royal dynasty of Poland.

10. In case of the minority of the King, his tutelage and administration of the government shall be in the hands of



THIRD OF MAY CELEBRATION IN WARSAW (1807)  
By Jakob Sokolowski

the Queen's mother, and of council, who shall be responsible for their conduct to every Diet.

11. The education of the King's children shall in like manner be confided to the council.

12. The judicial power shall be fixed for each palatine, territory or district. The judges shall be elected at the Dietines."

## MARCH, MARCH, DOMBROWSKI \*

**K**OSCIUSZKO, who had so gallantly struggled on the side of Washington for the freedom of America, failed when in 1794 he led the fight for the freedom of his native Poland. His revolutionary movement against the second partition of Poland by the great powers was quelled, Kosciuszko was captured while many of his soldiers fled abroad. Warsaw became Prussian.

But the longing for freedom remained alive in his beaten, scattered army. Longing is a strong force. It opens prison gates, overthrows governments, leaps oceans—and gives the passive and hesitant the courage for great action. In 1795, the Polish revolutionaries went once more underground, with Cracow as the center of their illegal organization. A continuous messenger service maintained contact with the emigrés whose headquarters shuttled all over the European continent, from Leipzig to Venice, to Constantinople and to Paris, focal point of the *Grande Révolution*. The *Directoire* and its rising leader, Napoleon, maintained that they were fighting for the liberty of France and the world. The Poles abroad and the underground in Cracow decided to link their cause with that of the French. The *Directoire* commissioned Henryk Dombrowski to recruit a Polish Legion. That was early in January, 1797—at the end of the month the first two battalions were already in the field, each of them 1,000 strong. Dombrowski made his headquarters in Milan. Day after day Poles deserted the armies of Hapsburg, Austria to join their fellow-countrymen.

\*Above text and drawing on opposite page copyrighted, 1942, by Esquire, Inc., 919 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. (Esquire, January 1943).

It was a colorful crowd, patriots and adventurers, and a leader with a daring plan—to break through the Austrian lines in Italy and to return to Poland via Croatia, Hungary and Galicia at the head of his troops. To them Poland was a symbol for all mankind. As a token of this spirit, the Legion had adopted a slogan in Italian—*Gli uomini liberi sono fratelli*, "All free men are brethren," and attached it to their uniforms.

All that Summer of 1797 they sat in their camps in Italy. The news grew steadily worse. Napoleon, the rumor went, was preparing to make peace with Austria. The soldiers were puzzled and desperate. Then, according to the legend, a trumpeter in this hour of gloom suddenly rose and blew the tune of a mazurka loudly and cheerfully into the night. Joseph Wybicki, one of the revolutionary leaders, a lawyer, champion of the abolition of serfdom, improvised to the music the words: "Poland is not yet lost. . . ."

The legionnaires needed a sign of their faith since things were not going well. Napoleon took advantage of their sacrifices, watched the Polish Legion become exhausted in the fight against Austria and sent the remnants to San Domingo to extinguish the liberty of the Negroes. And yet, the Legion survived. It was above all the Poles who helped Napoleon to cover his epic retreat from the Russian Winter in 1812. Meanwhile, Dombrowski's bold strategic plan had become reality. In 1807—at the head of his Legion, as the song pictured it, he crossed the river Warta and entered Poland. But at the peace table of Tilsit Napoleon had almost forgotten the Poles. Only the small independent Duchy of Warsaw was

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## POLAND IS NOT YET LOST

*While we live she is existing  
Poland is not fallen;  
We'll win with swords resisting,  
What the foe has stolen.*

*March, march, Dombrowski,  
From Italy's plain;  
Our brethren shall meet us  
In Poland again!*

*We'll cross where Warta's surging  
Gloomily its waters,  
With each blade from sheath emerging  
Poland's foes to slaughter!*

*March, march, etc.*

*Hence unto the field of glory,  
Where the life's blood's streaming  
Where with talons red and gory,  
Poland's eagle's screaming!*

*March, march, etc.*

*Poland! shall the foe enslave thee  
Sadly and forever;  
And we hesitate to save thee?  
Never, Poland, never!*

*March, march, Dombrowski, etc.*

Translation by PAUL SOBOLESKI



# The Great Altar-Piece of Wit Stwosz at Krakow

by EARL MORSE WILBUR

Condensed below is an article written by Earl Morse Wilbur for the American quarterly, LITURGICAL ARTS in 1935 (second quarter). Barely four years later, the Wit Stwosz altar-piece described in Mr. Wilbur's article was stolen by the Germans and carried off to Germany.

AT one corner of the ancient market place in Krakow stands the great fourteenth century church of Saint Mary, from whose lofty spire at every hour, day and night, for five hundred years has sounded the reassuring note of "the Trumpeter of Krakow," who furnished the title for Eric Kelly's charming story. Though the church is huge and ungainly without, within it is sumptuous in form and color and painted glass. Krakow possesses many notable works of architecture, sculpture, and painting, and several fine museums which would reward a far journey; yet the one work that outshines all others is the great altar-piece of Wit Stwosz in Saint Mary's. It is at present all the more interesting because, on the eve of the four hundredth anniversary of the artist's death, it was intelligently and thoroughly restored, and the effort to bring it back as far as possible to its original appearance and condition was crowned with brilliant success.

In 1442, the vault of the choir of Saint Mary's fell in, ruining the original altar-piece. When repairs were done, a new altar-piece was required that should be worthy of the place, though it was a full generation before sufficient funds could be gathered. The choice of an artist fell by happy inspiration upon Stwosz, who was an intimate friend of one of the committee in charge.

The Krakow altar-piece is not only Stwosz's masterpiece, but it is the greatest work of mediaeval art in Poland. It is a gigantic triptych filling the whole breadth

of the choir in the great church. It consists of a large central panel, flanked by two pairs of wings, those which are stationary being concealed by those which are movable when the latter are opened. Beneath is a predella containing a Tree of Jesse, while surmounting all is a group representing the Coronation of the Virgin. The central panel and wings are nearly twenty-three feet high by over seventeen feet broad; the total height is over forty feet. It is thus one of the greatest and most splendid altar-pieces in existence. The whole work is carved in linden wood, and is richly gilded and painted in polychrome. As is appropriate to a church consecrated to Saint Mary, the motif of the whole is to centre the worshiper's devotion on the Blessed Virgin. To this end the wings, showing twelve panels when closed and six more when open, rep-



Wit Stwosz Altar-piece

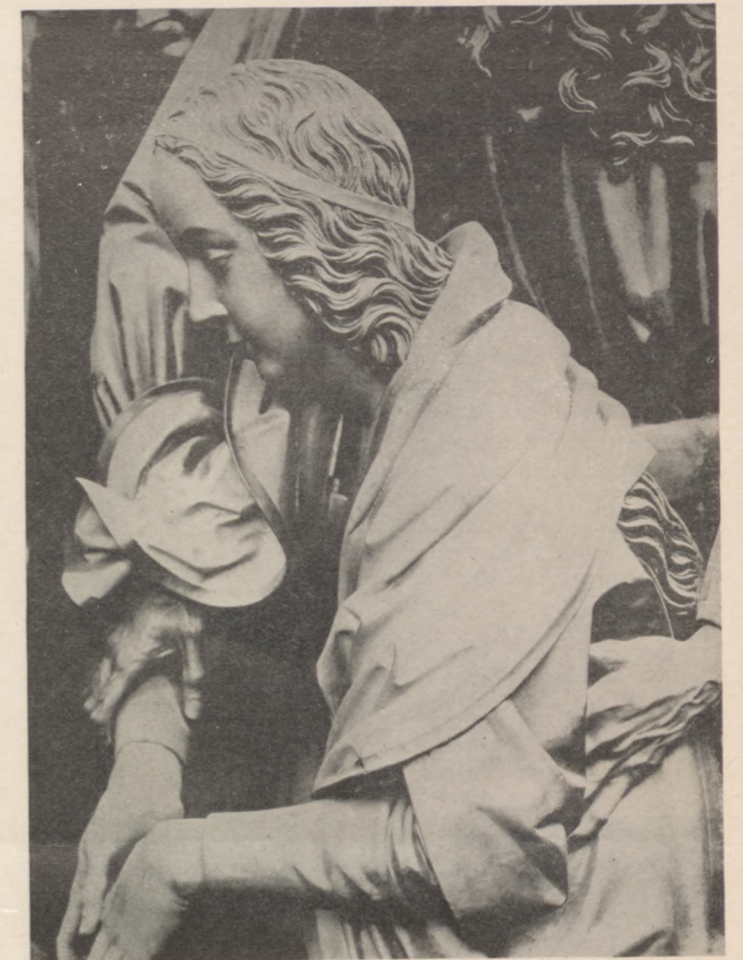
resent in low or middle relief successive episodes in the story of Mary and of Jesus; while the great central panel, on which Stwosz practised his highest skill, portrays at the bottom, in figures above life-size and in nearly full relief, the death of the Blessed Virgin, who is surrounded by the twelve Apostles; above this, in the background, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin may be seen; and crowning all, as said above, her Coronation in Heaven. The carved parts are attached to a flat painted background, and the va-

rious parts are enclosed in rich Gothic frames surmounted by canopies. The total impression produced is as nearly overpowering as it well could be.

The composition of the main panel, and of most of the smaller ones, is managed with the greatest skill, although the execution is of varying excellence; for the master, though he conceived and directed the whole work and personally did the most important parts of the carving, sought assistance in the minor parts from his pupils. He excelled in the representation of motion; and while he made no attempt to be archaeologically correct, his figures and their clothing being roughly contemporary, he managed drapery with surpassing skill, and employed it extensively. The faces of the chief figures are carved with expressions uncannily realistic, and their hands, thin, bony, and veiny, are almost more lifelike than life itself. Each separate detail—even those that could never be seen save at close range—was wrought with meticulous care; and taken as a whole, the monument presents as fine an achievement as the middle ages have left us within the limits of altar-piece art—naturalism in the figure carving, drapery that seems to move in waves,

baldachins, delicate Gothic lace-work, flashes of gilding, brilliant colors, light and shade, richness of minor detail—all these find here more powerful expression. Small wonder that the genial artist, with this great work to his credit, was received at court, employed to carve monuments for king and bishop, and that when his work in Poland was done, he returned to Nuremberg covered with fame and fortune.

In judging this altar-piece it would be a grave mistake to regard its sculpture as an independent work of art. It is polychrome sculpture; and it should be remembered that polychromy is not merely covering carved figures with colors which, though appropriate, are of secondary importance. In the carved altar-pieces of the middle ages polychromy played in the total impression a role quite equal to that of the carving itself, and it was considered necessary in order to complete the carving. Reliefs were carved in the wood expressly with the thought of forming the most suitable field



Detail from Death of the Virgin Mary, Wit Stwosz Altar-piece

for colored effects, so that the carving played in the total much the same role that drawing plays in ordinary painting. The finished whole, therefore, has the effect of a painted picture in which the leading features have been set off by being plastically emphasized, thus giving an effect extremely realistic. The carving that came from the hand of the sculptor thus did not have its intended splendor until its several parts had been so treated as to produce the most brilliant and striking impression possible. The drapery was usually gilded; the colors preferred were bright and striking ones. In the fifteenth century such polychrome carving was more popular than the triptych paintings of even the greatest masters. It is believed to have been developed not so much out of the art of sculpture in stone as from that of the goldsmith. In the middle ages paint was applied not only to wood but to stone as well, and sometimes even to bronze. The Krakow altar-piece, ranking as perhaps the most splendid of such works of the late middle ages, must have had an especially brilliant and technically perfect polychromy; for Stwosz painted the reliefs himself, and in the city records is often described not as a sculptor but as a painter.

Throughout the more than four centuries and a half of its history, the altar-piece has well withstood the ravages of time, and the wood is very well preserved; but the hand of man has not dealt so kindly with it. In the seventeenth cen-

(Please turn to page 10)



Annunciation, Wit Stwosz Altar-piece

## The Great Altar-Piece of Wit Stwosz at Krakow

(Continued from page 9)

ture the first attempt was made to clean it and freshen it up by repainting. In the middle of the eighteenth century it was again cleaned and partially restored; but in 1760 disaster was narrowly averted. Gothic art was by this time quite out of fashion, and baroque was in full possession of the field. The rector of the church therefore determined to replace the dingy and outmoded altar-piece by one in the new style, and commissioned a sculptor to execute it. Death stayed the hand of the vandal, and the project came to nothing. By the nineteenth century Gothic art had come to be more highly prized; and when Thorwaldsen, going to Italy in 1820, made a long detour in order to see this famous work, and highly praised its drapery, Krakow fully realized that it possessed a priceless treasure. The last and most thorough work of restoration was undertaken in 1866-71, and was placed in the hand of the most competent artists of the time, including the famous Polish painter, Matejko.

Reborn Poland realized the time was ripe for a thorough restoration of the work to its primitive stage. The restoring of a polychrome work which had almost completely lost its primitive character presented problems of extreme difficulty, but the work was entrusted to the experienced hands of Professor Juljan Makarewicz of Krakow and Professor Jan Rutkowski of Warsaw, recognized as the highest authorities on mediaeval art in Poland to-day. Fortunately, since the last restoration, the long buried work of the Spaniard Pacheco has come to light, which, by its account of the technique of polychromy, has shown the way to proper restoration, hitherto impossible. The purpose of the present restoration has been as far as possible to endow with



Saint Peter, Wit Stwosz Altar-piece

its original form and character, a monument which previous attempts had only altered, deformed, or injured. The original carving, gilding, and polychrome as far as extant were to be left untouched. All was done with the greatest caution, and has proceeded inch by inch. For four months operations were carried on with the carvings *in situ*, but this proved so difficult and unsatisfactory that they were at length removed to the rooms of a museum, where with better light restoration could proceed to much greater advantage. The progress of the work has been a constant revelation of unsuspected richness and beauty. Long hidden beneath dingy coats of later paint and varnish, much of the original brilliant polychromy has been uncovered, a riot of bright colors, astonishing in their realism, and carefully chosen to emphasize the character of the figures, from the delicate flesh tones and ivory forehead of the girlish Madonna to the sallow, wrinkled skin of the Apostles; while the original gilding of the drapery gleams forth in untarnished splendor. Yet more interesting was the recovery on the flat backgrounds and other large surfaces of embellishments hitherto known only through drawings made before the last misguided restoration: rich brocading on the flowing garments, landscapes, buildings, gardens of flowers represented with the accurate skill of a botanical draughtsman, all these undoubtedly from the brush of the master himself.

Those who have seen the work of restoration since its completion are enthusiastic at its success. It is regarded as the most important undertaking of the sort in Poland, and this happy restoration of a great masterpiece was quite the most striking event in all its four hundred and fifty years' history, since the death of its maker.



Hands of an Apostle, Wit Stwosz Altar-piece

## THE SEARCH FOR POLES WITH "GERMAN BLOOD"

IN the Government General the German policy of absorbing any Pole, who for one reason or another could be argued to possess a drop of "German blood" in his veins, was based on the same principle as the Germanization measures in the "incorporated" areas. On January 26th, 1940, Herr Frank, the Governor General, issued a decree to this effect:

"In accordance with No. 5 Section 1 of the decree of the Fuehrer and Chancellor concerning the administration of occupied Polish territory, dated October 12th, 1939, I decree:

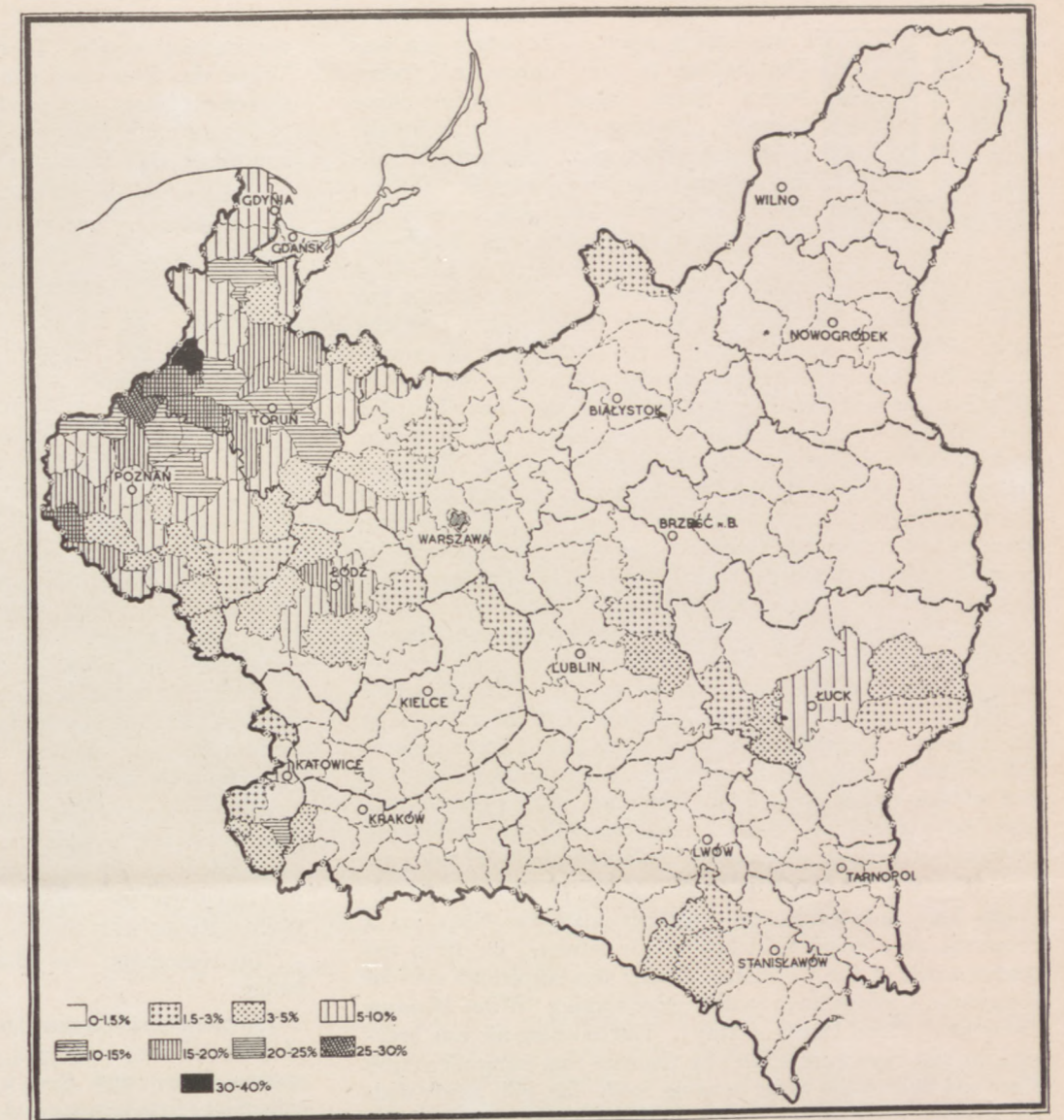
"A German national is a person who without being of German nationality, professes to be a member of the German nation, if such profession is supported by descent, language, mental attitude, education and other circumstances."

On February 2nd, 1940, instructions on the application of this decree were issued, giving instances of the details to be supplied to the authorities. In clause 11, the petitioner was required to answer the following question: "I have been a member of the following Polish political associations and societies." The Germans are bringing pressure to bear on those elements of the population they have determined to transform into Germans.

The first step was the germanization of the purely Polish communities of the Augsburg-Evangelical Church. After the arrest and martyrdom of the head of this church, Bishop Bursche, an ardent Polish patriot, all Polish communities of the church were officially given a completely German character. Unfortunately, details are lacking as to the tragedy of the Polish Protestants, especially as the Germans cloaked the whole affair in silence, only reporting the alleged German nature of this religious movement.

The first news to reach the U.S.A. from German sources concerning the germanization of Poles of alleged German origin, was in connection with the trans-settlement of some 4,000 *Bugholländer* from a district on the river Bug to Western Poland, illegally incorporated in the Reich. These people have had no connection whatever with Germany and things German for more than 300 years. They know no language except Polish. In the villages to which they were transferred they are being "germanized" under the care of special emissaries of the S.S. Elite Guards.

However, the transfer of population dated from 1940 and the beginning of 1941, when the Germans still intended to concentrate all German elements in Poland in the "incorporated" areas. More recently, these transfers of Germans or persons of alleged German origin to the Reich have come to a halt. It may therefore be surmised that the allocation of separate and distinct areas of settlement to respective nationalities



THE CENSUS OF 1931 GAVE AN AVERAGE OF 2.4 PER CENT OF GERMANS IN POLAND

has recently been superseded by an attempt to strengthen the position of Germans and German factors in Poland wherever possible. The German authorities are trying to create large aggregations of Germans, even in the area of the Government General. Germans who are Polish citizens have been left where they were, e.g., in Radom province and near *Tomaszow Mazowiecki*. In addition steps have been taken to separate certain groups which hitherto have been purely Polish, and which are "proved" to be of German origin and are being forced to accept the view that they are of German character.

So the Germans are now treating the Government General exactly as they treat the Polish western provinces illegally incorporated in the Reich. The frontier that was drawn right through the heart of the Polish State is gradually being abolished. On December 5th, 1942 for instance, the customs frontier between the Government General and the illegally incorporated areas was abolished.

The Poles are now expecting a further intensification of the work of germanization in the Government General. A process which down to 1942 affected only thousands of people will be extended to cover hundreds of thousands during the next few months.

# THE THIRD OF MAY IN A PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMP



It was spring again. The warm sun was like balsam to our beaten and frozen bodies. Even prison life became more tolerable. Aching chests drank in the fresh air, spirits rose. Like nature waking to life, our hopes surged with renewed strength. Once more we began to take an interest in life, such as it was.

Toward the end of April of our third year in a German prison camp we decided to celebrate the Third of May. The day that brings back to each Pole the year 1791 when Poland, hard pressed on all sides by powerful and autocratic neighbors, proclaimed a democratic constitution, without shedding a drop of blood. That old spirit has not died in us yet. In each Polish breast still lives that love of freedom that inspired the Constitution of 1791, that today keeps alive our faith in a reborn Poland. In this prison camp, under the watchful eye of the "Gruppe III" Gestapo director, we resolved to commemorate the national holiday by some kind of public celebration. We had to think up something that would escape the vigilance of *Hauptmann B.* One of our friends waited for an auspicious moment, when *Hauptmann B.* was in a good humor. We were given permission to hold a concert on the last Sunday in May. The program "selbstverständlich" to be censored and the "censor" to be at the concert. The rehearsals were to be called from time to time in the evenings in Barrack 26. We arranged it so that one of the rehearsals fell on May 3rd. We planned that somebody would say a few warm words, sing something perhaps—something that would "selbstverständlich" not pass the censorship of *Hauptmann B.*

On May 3rd, the chorus director called the choir for a rehearsal on a small field behind the latrines, far from the beaten track of the Germans. Under the suspicious eyes of the guards I joined them as they were singing "Witaj Majowa Jutrzenko" (Hail Dawn of May). The morning air was bracing, the sun rays were scattering the mist that hung above the river and lighted the white twisting road. The hills shone with the lush green of spring wheat, and the white houses of the city—after which our prison camp was named—disappeared in the whiteness of trees in bloom.

"Ideal weather—a real Third of May," the singers said, as they rolled cigarettes during the intermission.

"It's about nine. Every year at this time I used to carry the guild flag to the Cathedral. Then the parade..." the shoemaker from P. boomed in his deep nostalgic bass. He was now a "senior" craftsman in the camp shoe shop, and was on "sick leave" as were most of the other singers.

"It's our third Third of May in prison, and it seems like yesterday that our regiment was gathering beneath the walnut trees..."

"Sentimental nonsense," interrupted the dour sailor from the Pinsk Flotilla. He was distinguished by the blue shirt he wore—the only one in camp. "That one can see his guild parading to the Cathedral, and you are already calling your doughboys together. If you go on like that, you'll most likely see your whole parade on this Prussian road."

It happened somehow that we looked through the wire toward the road. Nobody uttered a sound. We stood motionless, ready to believe in hypnotism or a miracle.

A long grey line in columns of four was marching toward us. Children, women and men in civilian clothes were

approaching slowly. There were several hundreds of them. When the front line got to the wire fence we could see school uniforms, and patched dresses and clothes. A line of "feldgrau" uniforms closed the ranks. There was no longer any doubt that these were Poles.

The column passed the entrance gate and was disappearing in the direction of the bath, laundry and disinfection barracks.

A commotion started in our camp. All this was so improbable. Rumor that usually explains each occurrence behind our barbed wire was not even born this time.

It was impossible to get to the baths. Sentries were stationed all around and guards leading chained dogs lurked around the ground. We stood at a distance. The crowd of prisoners was growing. They set the dogs on us several times but we always came back.

Finally after an hour we gleaned some facts from a German infirmary man who was sent out to the Polish Sick Room. He told us that these 300 people were Polish volunteers for farm labor in the vicinity of our camp. They all had to be washed, examined and inoculated before being distributed to the villages. The regional hospital could not accommodate them because they didn't expect such a large number. Here the camp doctors could take care of them and besides the installations were better. All this had to be done by four in the afternoon.

At noon one of the Polish assistants slipped through the guard. He told us that the deportees had been four days on the road in sealed cattle cars. They had not eaten anything for two days and would not get anything here. They had taken nothing with them.

"Do something," he whispered as he walked back to the baths.

We went through our barracks and came out with a couple of pails of soup intended for our lunch, some plates and spoons, bread and Red Cross biscuits. Somebody got a collection of underwear and stockings. All our treasures that were so hard to get from the German magazines went into the collection.

We waited until two o'clock when most of the guards were off for the afternoon. Then we tried a manoeuvre. Under the command of our chief twenty of us carrying the food and clothing marched to the guarded grounds in double file. We got through the guards.

The first groups were just leaving the disinfection barrack. The doctors, a few sisters from the hospital and the "Arbeitsamt" officials were still busy in the building. That meant that we could distribute the food and talk in peace.

They were all confused, dead tired and hungry. They ate the soup without any enthusiasm. Nothing surprised them anymore. They took the clothes we offered them and spoke of what happened without feeling.

They came from J. in Poznan province. There had been an appeal for volunteers to work on farms in Germany. The new *Landrat* wanted to make a good show and to get more volunteers than the other districts. However, only one volunteer appeared. Another appeal was made and four days ago there had been a mass raid. They took everybody as they stood. The *Landrat* arrived at the station in the evening and decided that there were not enough volunteers. It is difficult to find Poles in the district of *Poznan* now.



... A LINE OF "FELDGRAU" CLOSED THE RANKS ...

In order to make up the total of three hundred they dragged children and old people out of their beds.

More people issued from the barracks. Most of them were women: little girls not more than 10 years old with tear-swollen eyes; high school girls in their faded uniforms; peasant girls with strong-chiselled features and rough hands, and older women in city clothes. Among the men only young boys from 12 to 16 and men above fifty. The oldest was a grey-haired man, the only one who had volunteered. He pushed away the dish I was handing him and gasped for breath.

"I can't—the asthma is choking me, my good Sir! I volunteered because two of my sons are in prison, and my two younger sons were taken to forced labor long ago. I thought that before this asthma chokes me I'll maybe see them again."

A lady in mourning with a calm pale face urged her delicate child to eat. The "Arbeitsamt" officials just told her that she and her daughter were to be separated. Yet the lady in mourning did not cry. She thanked us with a smile and shook our hands. "Chins up boys!" she said.

A few minutes before four the guards were removed and the escorts began forming columns. More and more of us slipped through to exchange a few words, to look for a familiar face, to give a few cigarettes. We said good-bye, but bitterness and anger seized us by the throat so that we could not even say a few warm words of encouragement at parting.

The old man suffering from asthma was told to fall out. He was the only one released by the German doctors, the

only one they considered unfit for work. The guard took him to the station. He was sent home again.

Two civilian doctors and a Polish doctor, a prisoner in our camp, walked out of the hospital barracks. Captain S., usually calm and well controlled, was now gesticulating and pointing toward the youngest children in the group. The German doctors shook their heads and one of them said coolly though quite civilly "... aber das sind doch Freiwillige Herr Stabarzt." (But these are volunteers doctor.) Our captain then called out first in German then in Polish. "Those who volunteered lift up your hands." Everybody stood still. Not one hand was lifted. The captain looked at the German doctors. It seemed that he wanted to say something, but he just lifted his hand in a gesture that expressed contempt, and at the same time impotence and discouragement. He walked away in silence.

A German command snapped like a whipcord. A child wailed—the column moved away. This was the Third of May parade in our prison camp.

\* \* \*

We had no celebration that night. What could be more expressive, what could be more memorable than that column of prisoners. We looked after them through the barbed wire as they disappeared slowly among the green hills of this hated land.

There seemed to be no purpose in arranging concerts and rehearsals anymore.

—Kriegsgefangener No. XXX.

## POLISH WRITER WINS AMERICAN LITERARY AWARD

ON April 13, 1943, Dr. Walter Damrosch, President of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, announced that it had bestowed upon Jozef Wittlin, Polish writer, one of the ten \$1,000 awards made this year to creative workers in the fields of music, painting, sculpture and literature.

Mr. Wittlin was born in 1896 in Podole, South-eastern Poland. His first writings appeared in the Poznan literary revue, *Zdroj*. Then he joined a group of young writers in Warsaw who launched the literary monthly, *Skamander*. The originality and inspired depth of his first volume of verse, *Hymns*, won him an important place among Polish writers. He also paraphrased the old Babylonian epic *Gilgamesh*, wrote a collection of essays and lectures entitled *War, Peace and a Poet's Soul*, and published *Stages*, a travel book. His translation of Homer's *Odyssey* won him an award of the Pen Club.

In 1936 appeared his *Salt of the Earth*, the first volume of a projected trilogy. To date this work has been translated into English, Czech, Dutch, Hungarian, German, Russian, French, Italian and Swedish. Published in the United States in 1942, it was very favorably reviewed throughout the country.

In America since 1941, Mr. Wittlin has continued his writing and is at present a member of the editorial board of the Polish literary weekly, *Tygodnik Polski*, published in New York. By a curious concatenation of circumstances, Mr. Wittlin is again working with the same group of Polish writers with whom he collaborated in pre-war days in *Zdroj* and *Skamander*.

Asked to comment for *The Polish Review* on his award, Mr. Wittlin stated: "The honor conferred upon me by the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the National Institute of Arts and Letters makes me especially happy, at a time so difficult for Poles. It shows once more that this beautiful and hospitable land in which so many European scholars, writers and artists have found a safe refuge, treats them like its own artists and scholars. In this respect the United States is unique in the world.

"If a writer can be sincere," continued Mr. Wittlin, "he is happy indeed. In this country sincerity seems to be the object of universal worship. It has become a kind of eleventh commandment and it would be a real sin for an artist not to take advantage of this freedom of thought and of expression.

"The fact that among the ten artists honored this year by the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the National Institute of Arts and Letters, the only foreigner is a Polish



JOZEF WITTLIN

writer, fills me with pride and makes me appreciate the sympathy of the American intellectual elite for my unhappy country and its culture.

"I believe," concluded Mr. Wittlin, "that the English translation of my *Salt of the Earth* has helped, if even in a small measure, to acquaint the American reader with the atmosphere of Poland's South-eastern borderland, where I was born and where I found inspiration for my writing."

## MARCH, MARCH, DOMBROWSKI

(Continued from page 6)

formed—under the King of Saxony. It vanished in 1812.

But "Poland was not yet lost," in spite of the fourth partition of the country by the Congress of Vienna and continued oppression by the great powers. "Poland is not yet lost" sang the Polish liberals, those who in 1832 fraternized with the oppressed German liberals at the festival of Hambach, and those who took part in the German democratic revolution of 1848-49 whose failure proved so fatal for the whole of Europe. Other Slav nations, in a similar situation, took up the slogan—the Croats, for instance, started to sing "Croatia has not yet been lost."

After the first World War, when Poland once more enjoyed national independence, many Poles thought that the time had come to retire Wybicki's song from its role as a national anthem. Was it not a refugee song? Was it not outdated, covered with honor, but covered also with the dust of history?

But they had overlooked the latent power of militaristic Prussia, "the Tartuffe among states," as Heinrich Heine termed it. Now a new Polish Legion is on the march. No longer the picturesque and romantic soldiers who gathered around Dombrowski's camp fires, but no less daring and resolute. This time they mean to take the sting and the smart out of Wybicki's song of exile and despair and to consign it for all time to the realm of history.

—WILL SCHABER

Front cover—The Polish Diet in Warsaw following the adoption of the Constitution of the Third of May, 1791 (from a contemporary engraving).

Back cover—Fragment of a page from the "Kentucky Gazette" of September 1, 1791, reporting the ratification of the May Constitution.

## POLISH FEATURE AND NEWS SERVICE

### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PASSES RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY WITH POLAND

The Legislative Assembly of the Canadian province of Prince Edward Island has unanimously passed the following Resolution, that has been forwarded to the Polish Government in London:

WHEREAS in the western provinces of Poland, illegally incorporated in the Reich, the Germans have ordered compulsory military service and auxiliary service in the eastern districts;

AND WHEREAS the number of Poles shot or hanged for being true to their nation and state already exceeds one hundred and forty thousand;

AND WHEREAS a considerably larger number of men and women are suffering tortures in German prison and concentration camps;

AND WHEREAS about one million and a half Poles in the prime of life have been deported to Germany for forced labor in mines and factories;

AND WHEREAS nearly two millions have been robbed of their farms, houses, work-shops and factories and have been driven out of the western provinces towards the east;

AND WHEREAS food rationing has become more and more restricted for the Polish people, whom the German have subjected to increasingly unjust regulations;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island hereby express to the Polish people sincere sympathy for the hardships caused by atrocities repeatedly perpetrated against them by the Germans; and admiration for the valiant way in which the people of Poland have resisted and are resisting efforts to make them slaves. May the time speedily come when the right of men and nations to free life, which has been trampled down today in all lands occupied by the Axis, and particularly Poland, be restored and the crimes committed be deservedly punished.

### POLISH ACE'S DARING FEAT SAVES PLANE

Algiers, May—"Save material first and then think about your own safety" was the watchword before the war in Poland, where economic conditions made it difficult to replace valuable instruments. It is still strong in the minds of Poles fighting side by side with the British.

A Polish flying officer on patrol north of Gabes, after shooting down a Messerschmidt, saw his own Spitfire badly hit by a second German fighter. With his engine on fire, the Pole turned his machine over and prepared to bale out. At the last moment when his cockpit was already half open he noticed that the fire had gone out.

The idea "Save material first" then prevailed. While his Spitfire was diving at a terrific speed, the pilot decided to turn his plane over again and risk going into a glide, a tricky operation in a fighter.

However, thanks to his great tenacity and skill, the Pole succeeded. After passing through some minutes he will not forget, he landed on the nearest airfield.

"After all, I have to take it back to Poland," he said to British officers when they came to congratulate him. Four days later he was again in the air in the same plane.

### GERMAN GRAFT SCANDAL CAUSES UNREST IN LODZ

Recently a sensational story appeared in the German press that grave irregularities had been uncovered in the important Wudke business concern, which had been engaged in wholesale violations of the German economic regulations. The scandal was so serious that Ubenhoer, Nazi chief of the Lodz district, a trusted party man, has been discharged by Greiser, who made a special trip to Lodz to quiet down the local Germans.

In a public speech he said that Ubenhoer was in no way implicated in the Wudke affair, and at a meeting of business men in Lodz he reiterated that neither he nor any other German official had benefited financially from the irregularities committed.

These statements mislead no one, especially the Poles. Polish people know what to think of the integrity of the German invaders, who not only rob them, but also steal from their own country. Graft, bribery and corruption of all kinds are rife in Poland, and pass unnoticed except when the magnitude of the scandal precludes the possibility of concealment.

### Minister Kot on Polish Resistance MOUNT WARSAW HONORS POLES IN BRIT. COLUMBIA

Ottawa, April—At the suggestion of Mrs. Audrey Alexandra Brown, the Minister of Lands of the Government of British Columbia in the Dominion of Canada has named one of the great peaks in the Canadian Rocky Mountains after the heroic capital of Poland—Mount Warsaw.

Here in Canada for countless ages the great gallantry of Warsaw will be commemorated in one of the vast works of nature whose crest is lifted always to the sky. Mount Warsaw overlooks the Big Bend Highway, a great motor road that will be used by everyone who motors through this historic part of British Columbia where the earliest explorers made camp and broke their journey to the Pacific. Standing in the bend of the Columbia river, at the edge of a new provincial park, it rises to a height of more than 9,000 feet, a majestic tower of imperishable stone. The fame of the Polish people and of Warsaw is no less high, no less enduring.

### SS. PADEREWSKI IS LAUNCHED ON THIRD OF MAY

On the Third of May—Poland's National Holiday—the S.S. Ignacy Paderewski was launched from one of the largest shipyards on the Pacific Coast, the California Shipbuilding Corp. at Wilmington. The Poles of Los Angeles arranged a three-day program to celebrate the event.

There was a ball organized by Polish-American youth on May 1st. On May 2nd, the festivities included an open-air concert on the steps of the City Hall by the U.S. Army symphonic orchestra. The national anthems of Poland and of the United States were sung. Speeches and military exercises followed. The proceedings closed with the singing of "God Bless America."

On Monday, the Third of May, the good ship Ignacy Paderewski slid down the ways and part of the ceremony was broadcast on a nation-wide hook up. Mrs. Wiktorja Rydzeska, a prominent member of the Polish-American community in Los Angeles christened the ship.

The united Polish societies of Los Angeles are publishing a souvenir program to commemorate the occasion.

London, May—Mr. Stanislaw Kot, Polish Minister of Information, attended a luncheon here given in his honor by the Anglo-American Press Ass'n. He said: "The resistance presented to the Germans by the Polish nation is an outstanding event in history, it is total resistance by 35 million people.

"In spite of their artifice and many temptations the Germans have not succeeded in sowing dissension between peasants, the workers and the intellectuals, or in exploiting antagonisms between different parts of Poland and different peoples, or in bringing religious groups into conflict, nor have they found anybody to act as Quisling.

"Thirty-five million Poles are united as never before in unanimous hostility to the Germans.

"Resistance in Poland is in complete solidarity with the Polish Government and directed by it. A delegate of the Polish Government is in Poland, indeed agents of the Polish Government have been organizing resistance in Poland since 1939.

"The work includes armed organization, political representation in Poland grouping all political parties, and the Directorate of Civilian Resistance.

"In one month alone this year a hundred locomotives were damaged, seventeen trains derailed, seven oil wells rendered useless, eighteen military transports attacked, more than five hundred Germans killed.

"The most powerful instrument in the hands of the Home Front is the secret press. You will have heard that nearly a hundred secret papers appear in Poland, that some of them have a circulation of twenty thousand copies, that they work so efficiently that they were able to publish photographs of Mr. Churchill visiting Polish troops in Scotland, of the victory of Alamein, of the landing in North Africa. They issue special editions within a few hours of the receipt of news by radio.

At the most difficult period of this war, after France's fall, the secret Polish press preserved the Polish people's faith in ultimate victory, foretold the German-Russian conflict, the entrance of the United States into the war, the vast increase of production and the gigantic raids on the Reich.

### HELP FOR POLAND

"Which of the nations invaded by the Axis would you be the most eager to help?"

Poland! Was the answer of 600 women out of the 2,000 readers to whom the *Woman's Home Companion* put this question. They had been carefully selected to give an accurate cross-section of the millions who read the magazine regularly.



## REVOLUTION in POLAND.

At three o'clock in the morning of May 3d, a number of patriots, who had preconcerted the great objects which they meant to accomplish in the sitting of the Diet that day, assembled in the King's chamber. There, in the presence of the King, they engaged to effectuate the Revolution that day, and they pledged themselves to each other, by a solemn engagement, not to separate until they had accomplished the end.

The assembly was opened at the usual hour. The galleries were crowded with spectators, and the house was surrounded with thousands who could not gain admission. Instead of the Marshals, the King himself opened the session. He said in substance, that "notwithstanding all assurances to the contrary, there was an alarming rumour, confirmed by the advices daily received, that the three neighbouring powers would make up and terminate all their jealousies and divisions, at the expense of the possessions of the republic; that the only method of assuring to Poland the integrity of its possessions, and of preserving it from the ruin which foreign politics were preparing for it, was to establish a Constitution, which should secure its internal independence. That in this view there had been prepared a plan of a Constitution, founded principally on that of England, and the United States of America; but avoiding the faults and errors of both, and adapting it as much as possible to the local and particular circumstances of the country."

In support of the information relative to the Foreign powers, the King communicated to the Diet some dispatches received from the Ministers of the Republic at foreign courts; stating how eager they were to oppose all settlement of the constitution, and that every thing seemed to announce their hostile designs on Poland. The King desired that the plan, which he submitted to them, might be read, and that they should proceed forthwith to enact it into a law, if they approved of it. The plan was accordingly read, and a very long and important debate took place.

All the representatives of the provinces of Volhynia and Podolia, declared themselves against the new form of Constitution.

M. Suchorzewski, who so recently distinguished himself in so brilliant a manner as an advocate for the people, and who is justly regarded as the principal author of the movements that have

ample, and swore the same. "Every man that loves his country" exclaimed his Majesty, "follow me to the church, and thanking God, let us repeat the oath at the altar." All the Bishops, all the secular senators, with a great number of Nuncios or representatives accompanied the King to the church, and there again they solemnly engaged before the Supreme Being and their Country, to maintain a Constitution, which combining liberty with subordination, and surrendering the first citizen as well as the last to the law, secures to all the means of happiness, and gives to each citizen the true enjoyment of his rights. It was by that time eleven o'clock in the evening:—The Diet was put to rest and the new Constitution was announced to the people by the discharge of 200 pieces of cannon. There were but between thirty and forty Nuncios who did not follow the King to the church. The King with his suite, returned to the Assembly house and adjourned the Diet to the 5th of May, after charging the Marshals to give the oath to all the Departments. The opposing Nuncios, seeing that all resistance was useless, resolved to protest against the new Constitution, by the publication of a manifesto, after which, they retired without noise to their own houses. There was no attempt made to interrupt them nor was any injury whatsoever offered to their persons. Cries of joy filled the streets, but this joy was the expression of a pure and calm patriotism. Through the whole day there was not the smallest confusion, nor disorder, nor riot. At eleven o'clock the streets were so perfectly calm, that one would hardly believe that it had been the epoch of a new order of things.

It is pretended, that on the eve of this memorable day, a certain foreign Minister had endeavoured by the dextrous application of 50,000 ducats, to avert the revolution; but all was foreseen and prevented. The business was executed in every point with as much address as it was framed. On the 4th instant, eighteen Nuncios published their manifesto against the proceedings of the day before; and Mr. Suchorzewski returned the Cordonsbleu, with which his Majesty had invested him fifteen days before. — On the 3d of May, the post was stopped, and even foreign Ministers submitted to the general order, but on the 4th expresses were sent off in all directions.

In the sitting of the 5th May, the new form of Constitution was again proposed. — The members present signed it unanimously, and they formally passed sentence, by sentence, the twelve articles of which it is composed.

exclusively to the states assembled in Diet and composed of two chambers, namely, the senate and chamber of Nuncios.

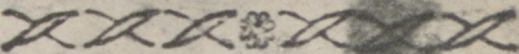
8. The King shall exercise executive power, with his council. The council shall be composed of the prime and five ministers, who shall each have a department. No order of the King can be put in execution unless it is signed by the ministers, whose lives and fortunes shall be responsible to each Diet for the orders they shall sign. As soon as two thirds of the Diet shall demand a change of ministers, the King shall be bound to dismiss them, and name others in their place.

9. The election of King shall never fall hereafter on an individual. A whole family shall be elected, when the Royal family shall be extinct. Thus after the decease of the reigning King (for whose long life the people and the nation make the most fervent prayer) the reigning elector of Saxony and his male descendants after him shall succeed to the throne of Poland. If he shall have no male issue, Mary Augusta Nepomucene, his only daughter, now declared infant of Poland, shall be queen, and her husband, whom the King and the states assembled shall choose for her, shall wear the crown and form the stock, from which shall spring a new Royal dynasty of Poland.

10. In case of the minority of the King, his tutelage with administration of the government shall be in the hands of the Queen's mother, and of council, who shall be responsible for their conduct to every Diet.

11. The education of the King's children shall in like manner be confided to the council.

12. The judicial power shall be fixed for each palatine, territory or district. The judges shall be elected at the Diets.



## AMERICAN OCCURRENCES.

LEXINGTON, Sep. 17.

Extract of a letter from the Govern-

nor of Virginia, to Brig. Gen. Scott, dated Council chamber, Richmond,

August 4th 1791.