



Polish Heritage

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We Went to Texas!

Convention delegates gather for a group photo in the entry hall of the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria, Texas.

2022 ACPC CONVENTION IN SAN ANTONIO

Submitted by Cecilia Larkin

"San Antonio is today the most beautiful city in Texas with a population of 100,000 and a growth attested to by 500 buildings erected every year.

Through the middle section of town, where trade has concentrated, flows the San Antonio River, neither wide nor deep, but of clear water and winding course, making so many sudden turns that it's being encountered several times within just a few blocks...

There are relatively few big buildings in the rich business section - more common are the two and one story structures, even though a foot of land here costs thousands of dollars. In those supposedly small houses powerful businesses with huge turnovers are being transacted."

The above passages are from a diary entitled *Notatki z podróży po północnej i środkowej Ameryce (Notes from Travel in North and Central America)*, written in 1909 by the Polish traveler, entrepreneur, and journalist Stefan Nesterowicz (1851-1911), who spent a great deal of time observing life in old Polish settlements in America, especially in Texas. His words were quoted in the *Polish Heritage* Winter, 1979 issue, announcing the 33rd American Council for Polish Culture Convention in San Antonio in July of 1980. This July, we

returned for the 74th annual gathering. Few among us remembered that long ago visit so it was a time of fresh discoveries as well as acknowledgement of history. The convention theme was: *Illuminating our past, energizing our future*, and there were many things to illuminate. First, the hotel in which the convention was held is one of those 500 buildings erected in 1909 as noted in Nesterowicz's diary. A hundred plus years later, it underwent full restoration and, from the elegant lobby with its crystal chandeliers

continued on page 2

2022 Convention

continued from page 1

and ornate grand piano to comfortable rooms, combined old fashioned charm with modern conveniences. Outside, the San Antonio River still flows and wraps around the blocks, bordered by the world famous River Walk, lined with inviting cafes, flowers and shady trees. The nearby Alamo and other historic sites teach about past struggles and hardships borne by those who settled the land.

Panna Maria

The city's old and new attractions would have been cause enough to come to San Antonio, but the real reason for selecting it as the site of this year's convention was the newly opened Polish Heritage Center in nearby Panna Maria. The invitation was extended in 2019 as the center was nearing completion and now was the time to go and see it. Convention participants and guests traveled 50 miles by bus to the first Polish settlement in Texas, established in 1854 and still proudly showing off its history, reminding of the hardships encountered by the first settlers, the faith they kept for Poland and its culture through their church of the Immaculate Conception, the oldest Polish church, and the Panna Maria Historical Society Museum located in the oldest Polish Catholic school in the United States. The new Heritage Center is something to behold. Its entry hallway boasts a large mural depicting scenes from the life of the Polish community.

The rest of the building is filled with numerous state-of-the-art exhibits illustrating centuries of Polish history with murals and interactive displays. Legendary Texan and Polish hospitality was attested to by the warm welcome with a reception upon arrival and a lunch in the Center's dining room. After the meal of traditional Texas barbecue, several gifts for the Center were presented by President Raymond and Cecilia Glembocki to Aloys Notzon and Angelica Docog, including a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol on the 100th birthday of Saint Pope John Paul II in 2020. Another gift was a scrapbook of original works by painter Jan De Rosen, preserved by Mary Flanagan, author of the book about the artist, *With Paintbrush and Sword*. A copy of the book was included with the gift. Jaroslaw Golembiowski and Conrad Miczko brought books donated by Anna Knap, member of the Chicago Chopin Society, from her uncle's vast collection which is now distributed among interested libraries and private collectors. This gift consists of a generous selection of Polish classics that will be available at the Panna Maria library.

Taking Care of Business

The business part of the convention was conducted all day on Wednesday, July 27 and part of Friday, July 29. On Wednesday morning, local convention coordinators John Cebrowski and Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden greeted out-of-town visitors at the formal opening ceremony and the Convention Committee Co-chairs Tom Payne and Debbie Majka extended official welcome in English and Polish. Dave Krupinski, Chief Operating Officer of Visit San Antonio, spoke about what his city had to offer and Aloys Notzon, Vice-Chairman of the Panna Maria Board of Directors made a brief presentation on the first Polish settlement in Texas, which the convention attendees were scheduled to visit the following day.



Immaculate Conception church in Panna Maria, Texas.



A flag flown over the U.S. Capitol on St. John Paul II's 100th birthday is presented by Raymond and Cecilia Glembocki to Aloys Notzon and Angelica Docog as a gift from the Friends of John Paul II Foundation to the Polish Heritage Center in Panna Maria.



Convention delegates also had the opportunity to visit some of the famous Texas longhorns.



Meeting in the Cavalier Room at the St. Anthony Hotel.

The keynote speaker was Consul General Robert Rusiecki of the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Houston. He urged the representatives of the ACPC affiliates to promote Polish culture by, among other things, bringing in talent from Poland and sponsoring performances in their areas. He was joined for a Consul General Proclamation by Honorary Consuls of Poland Debbie Majka and Richard Poremski.

Following the ceremony, ACPC President Raymond Glembocki called the convention to order and the rest of the morning and all afternoon were devoted to reports from various committees. ACPC Legal Counsel Mark Szpak presented proposed revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws, which were then put to a vote. Among changes that were adopted were: allowing smaller organization (minimum of 10 members instead of 20) to apply for ACPC membership as affiliates; allowing members of supporting organizations to hold ACPC office; and streamlining the Nominating Committee from five members to three. The updated Constitution and Bylaws have been posted on the ACPC website.

On Friday, new board and committee members were elected - as Directors for 2022-24: Robert Fronckowiak, Edward Krolkowski, Cecilia Larkin, Barbara Lemecha, Aneta Lennartson and Brian Malski; as Auditor: Deborah Majka; and as Credentials & Grievances Committee members: Cecelia Dillon, Tiffany Loomis and Paul Rog.

Culture in ACPC: Sembrich Award Concert and Awards Banquet

In addition to entertainment by a jazz quartet on Tuesday during the welcome reception and the popular Las Altas Mariachi Band providing some local musical flavor at cocktail hour on Thursday, there were the two cultural events always highly anticipated at ACPC conventions. On Wednesday night, the winner of the 2022 Marcella Kochańska Sembrich Vocal Competition, mezzo-soprano Matilda Smolij performed in concert in the elegant Peraux Ballroom. Accompanied on the piano by Jarosław Gołombowski, Ms. Smolij performed songs by Fryderyk Chopin and Stanisław Moniuszko, as well as by several other international composers. A Texas native who hails from Sugarland near Houston, she showed off her local roots by singing the romantic *Bésame Mucho* by Consuelo Velazquez in Spanish, and her thoroughly Polish musical background (her father is the conductor Mariusz Smolij) by ending the concert with the well known *Miłość ci wszystko wybaczy* by Henryk Wars with words by Julian Tuwim. In addition to accompanying the singer, Jarosław Gołombowski performed a Chopin mazurka and two of his own compositions, *Eight O'clock Gleaning* and *Granada*.

Friday evening, the Peraux Ballroom was the setting for the ACPC Awards Banquet during which six individuals were honored for their exceptional contribution to Polish culture and heritage.

continued on page 4



Polish Consul General Robert Rusiecki delivers the Convention Keynote Address.



Newly elected board and committee members: Brian Malski, Robert Frackowiak, Edward Krolkowski, Celia Larkin, Paul Rog, Debbie Majka, Aneta Lennartson, Cecelia Dillon, Barbara Lemecha.



Jarosław Gołombowski accompanies 2022 Sembrich winner Matilda Smolij.



Music Committee members (l to r): Dick Larkin and Jarosław Gotembowski and Chair Celia Larkin with 2022 Sembrich winner Matilda Smolij and ACPC President Ray Glembocki.



Above: Cultural Achievement Award recipients Nina Drath, PhD (l) and Anna Golka (r),

Left: Founders Award recipient Cecilia Larkin.

Below left: The late Most Reverend John W. Yanta recipient of the special ACPC Lifetime Achievement Award.

Below middle: Paul Rog (l) and ACPC Distinguished Service Award Recipient John Radziłowski.

Below far right: Peter Obst presents the Founders Award to Edward Krolikowski.



photo credits:
Cecilia and Dick Larkin, Tiffamy Loomis.

Additional photos are posted on the ACPC web site at http://www.polish-cultureacpc.org/Conv_2022/

Two Founders Awards were presented this year for significant input to the mission of our organization. Edward Krolikowski was honored for his work as the Chair of the Savannah General K. Pulaski Committee of the ACPC and his deep involvement in promoting Polish heritage in a number of organizations. Celia Larkin received the Founders Award for her long and varied service, including as former editor of the *Polish Heritage*, writer and translator, affiliate president, ACPC director, and most recently Chair of the ACPC Music Committee and the Sembrich Vocal Competition.

Two ACPC Cultural Achievement Awards were presented to: Nina Drath, a distinguished pianist, educator, and founder of the Chopin Society of Texas in Corpus Christi in 1988, for her work in promoting Polish music; and Anna Golka, an accomplished pianist, distinguished music teacher, founder of the Chopin Society in Houston in 2000, and an avid promoter of Polish music and musicians.

The ACPC Distinguished Service Award was presented to John Radziłowski, Ph.D., Professor of History at the University of Alaska, author, and the new Director of the Polish Institute of Culture and Research, formerly known as the Polish Mission in Orchard Lake, Michigan. Dr. Radziłowski is the past president of the ACPC affiliate Polish American Institute of Minnesota.

A very special Lifetime Achievement Award was accepted on behalf of the Most Reverend John W. Yanta, Bishop Emeritus of Amarillo, Texas, Chairman of the Board and President of the Polish Heritage Center of Panna Maria Foundation by Aloys Notzon, the Board's Vice Chairman. The Bishop, whose family history goes back to the first settlers in Panna Maria, was prevented from attending the banquet by rapidly declining health. He passed away a week later on August 6 at the age of 90. The ACPC is honored to have been able to pay its tribute to this great promoter of Polish heritage while he was still alive. Cześć Jego pamięci!

The convention in San Antonio will be long remembered for its pleasant setting in a beautiful city but most of all, for the opportunity to reconnect with the history of the first Polish settlers in the United States and to witness their heritage being celebrated by their descendants.

President's Message



President Raymond Glembocki

Hello All:

I am pleased to greet you at the beginning of our seventy-fifth year of service to our member organizations and to the Polish Community. My wife Cecilia and I have been helping some of our members complete their fall activities.

We have sent packets of Pulaski Book Marks to four organizations and sent informational banners we use at the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) to the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM). Edyta Dudek, President of PACIM, displayed them at their Polish picnic which had 150 guests; at the conclusion of the picnic, she flew to Buffalo, New York to personally deliver the panels to Robert Fronckowiak for use by his Buffalo group. In appreciation of her exceptional effort, Robert escorted Edyta on a personal tour of Buffalo and Niagara Falls. After Robert uses them he will send them to Mark Szpak in Boston for use by Mark's club in Massachusetts. This kind of friendship, cooperation and support is what we are about and we are fulfilling our founders' goals for the ACPC.

In July, we celebrated ACPC's seventy-fourth anniversary Convention with events in San Antonio and visited the new fourteen million dollar Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria, Texas. The planning and execution for such an event requires much time and effort. Our Convention Planning committee of Tom Payne and Debbie Majka are to be congratulated on their work to accomplish this task. We stayed at an elegant hotel for a reasonable price, our Sembrich Concert with Jarosław Gołombiowski accompanying the artist was held in a beautiful room as was our Awards Banquet which was a refined affair with our Awards Committee chaired by Marcia Lewandowski presenting six Awards to persons who promoted Polish Culture in various ways.

John Cebrowski was our "go to guy" for San Antonio and Panna Maria. David Motak designed and produced an exceptional Convention Booklet and designed the ACPC logo for the event and our tote bag. Lilia Kieltyka produced a detailed Report Book and led the committee which produced our first Lapel Pin. Mary Flanagan donated a historic scrap book compiled by Jan Henryk de Rosen. Tiffany Loomis and Celia Larkin have produced an exceptional Facebook summary of the Convention.

We presented Consul General Robert Rusiecki with a Proclamation which acknowledged the extraordinary generosity of the people of Poland, which is recognized worldwide, as they help the people of Ukraine who escaped, like the Panna Maria Poles, from potential repression of the invading forces. In addition to fighting for their own Polish causes, in assisting another nation's struggle for freedom Poles once again have embodied the time-honored slogan:

"Za naszą i waszą wolność" -
FOR YOUR FREEDOM AND OURS.

We also presented a Proclamation to Panna Maria recognizing the efforts of Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta in honoring our immigrant ancestors by establishing the Polish Heritage Center in Panna Maria, Texas. Bishop Yanta was the first person to receive our new Lapel Pin. He was not in good health at the time of the Convention and sadly passed away a week later.

Thank you all who were not mentioned but contributed to an efficient and delightful Convention.

Since the Convention we have initiated several new projects:

- a 75th Anniversary Book will be coordinated by Marcia Lewandowski and Debbie Majka;
- a Web Site Review Committee will be coordinated by Peter Obst;
- a Polish Language Outreach Committee will consist of Edyta Dudek and Aneta Lennartson;
- a Student Cultural Exchange Committee and Polish Embassy Outreach Program will be led by Robert Fronckowiak, Robert will also lead the ACPC Scholarship which be an important part of the Outreach Program.

Several of our members were recognized for their contributions to Polish culture. Peter Obst received an award medal from the Polish government, Deborah Majka received an award from the Trenton Cultural Club and Henrietta Nowakowski had a music concert dedicated to her.

For more good news about the ACPC join us in Savannah, Georgia for our fall Board Meeting and as we participate in the Savannah Pulaski Committee's ceremony celebrating General Casimir Pułaski.

Best regards

Raymond Glembocki

Raymond Glembocki
President

AFFILIATE NEWS

HARTFORD

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford (PCCGH) had a very active spring schedule starting with the 2022 Anna-Mae Maglaty Literary Competition held on May 21. Students from the Hartford Polish Saturday School were invited to submit entries on the following topic, "Which of the Polish Traditions is the Most Important and Interesting to You?" Winners were: Grand Prize—Sabina Urbanska, with Klaudia Beatty and Maja Sejdor tied for Second Place. Essays were written in Polish and translated into English. We are grateful to the Wachtel Literary Competition Fund of the ACPC for matching half of the Grand Prize.

After a hiatus of two years, Sunday, June 5 brought thousands of Poles and Poles-at-heart back to Broad Street in New Britain for the annual Little Poland Festival. The Club hosted a very successful booth offering its "Favorite Recipes" cookbook, "Pillows for Baby Jesus" Christmas ornaments, apple *szarlotka*, and a variety of Polish imports. Spirits ran high.

On June 23, Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs Florence Langridge and Virginia Pudlo awarded four Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarships of \$1,000 each to Matthew Gwara—who is considering a career in social work; Oliver Klimas—who plans to major in the field of biotechnology; Jacob Kuczek—who will study actuarial science; and Natalia Smiarowski—who is majoring in architecture.

President Lilia Kieltyka attended the 2022 ACPC Annual Convention in San Antonio/Panna Maria, Texas in July representing the PCCGH, in addition to her position as ACPC Second Vice President. She was amazed by the extent of Polish pride exhibited by the Texans she met, as well as energized and inspired by her interactions with Polonians from around the country.

Ursula Brodowicz is to be congratulated for designing the new ACPC lapel pin which had its debut at the ACPC Convention. Lilia Kieltyka served as Chair of the ACPC Lapel Pin Committee. (Further information on this project is featured on page 15 of this issue.)

While still enjoying the last of hot, hazy summer days, the Club is already starting to prepare for a busy fall and holiday season.

Submitted by Lilia Kieltyka and Fran Pudlo.



Anna-Mae Maglaty Literary Competition winners: (left to right) Second Prize (tied): Klaudia Beatty and Maja Sejdor; Grand Prize: Sabina Urbanska.



Left to right: Gini Pudlo, scholarship students Oliver Klimas, Jacob Kuczek and Natalia Smiarowski and Florence Langridge. Missing: scholarship student Matthew Gwara.



Volunteering at the Little Poland Festival are (left to right) - Standing: Gini Pudlo, Sophia Panek, Lilia Kieltyka, Chris Panek; Seated: Julia Woron, Fran Pudlo, and Janit Romako.



Galicja Mon Amour

by David J. Motak



Some time ago at an event hosted by the Polish Consulate I struck up a conversation with a young Polish diplomat. When I asked him in which part of Poland he was born, he answered proudly "I'm from Galicia!!" Well, no one says they're from Galicia – at least not anymore – this is something that your grandmother or great-grandmother might say. I thought it rather cute and somewhat odd that this young, contemporary Pole would claim ancestry from a region that hasn't existed for over 100 years. But, then again, there is a certain charm in this attitude, as well as a great deal of history.

Galicja never really existed. It originated as a pure concept conceived by Austrian Empress Maria Theresa during the Polish Partitions. The Orthodox Russians and Protestant Prussians had no qualms about grabbing huge chunks of Poland in the late 1700s. But how could Empress Maria Theresa rationalize Catholic Austria partitioning Catholic Poland? And, to make matters worse, just a few decades earlier Poland rescued the Austrians from the onslaught of the infidel Turks during the siege of Vienna. (The Austrians, of course, have never fully acknowledged this historic fact as gratitude does not seem to be an Austrian trait.) When all seemed lost, Polish King Jan Sobieski led his troops over the Carpathian Mountains to soundly defeat the Turks and became the hero of Europe. But that was in the past.

To calm Empress Maria's conscience, her advisors came up with a clever solution. Since the area of Halicz in eastern Poland had once been under the rule of Hungary before being absorbed by King Kazimierz the Great of Poland in the mid 1300s and Hungary was now part of the Austrian Empire, the queen's advisors came up with the idea that Austria was not partitioning Poland, but merely legally rejoining Halicz to the Empire. Halicz was Latinized into "Galicz" by the Austrians and hence, *Galicja* was born. Galicja remained a province of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1918 when most of it was reincorporated into the newly independent Polish state. Then, magically, it disappeared from the map. It now lies divided between contemporary Poland and Ukraine.

Even from its very conception, Galicja was an odd duck. It was populated by a wide range of ethnic groups that had originally given the old Polish Commonwealth its unique flavor. Among these were Poles, Jews, Ruthenians (Ukrainians), Cossacks, Germans, Armenians, Rusyns and others. And each of these had their own unique cuisine. Inasmuch as they all populated the same geographic area, for the most part they all grew and ate the same types of produce, just altering them to suit their own regional or religious preferences. For instance, both Poles and Ukrainians make *pierogi*, they just might modify the fillings; Poles and Jews share many ingredients with Jewish versions being influenced by Jewish dietary laws, but such dishes as *cwikła*



– red beets and horse radish, versions of preparing carp and herring, as well as many other dishes are very popular among both groups. So, although each group had their own unique dishes, they shared ingredients, ideas and, often, traditions. And, over time, coating this unique "Galician cuisine" was the influence of Vienna and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, adding a certain refinement to regional Galician cultural identity.

The concept of Galicja – despite it being an artificial entity – soon became entrenched in peoples' minds as their homeland. And this was a concept passed down among generations, so that even the young Polish diplomat whom I met was proud of his unique Galician heritage, much like a Góral might be proud of his birthplace, or a Ślązak would be proud of being from Silesia.

It was in the cities, perhaps, that the connection with the Austro-Hungarian Empire became the strongest. Over time, residents of Kraków and Lwów had stronger affiliation with the cities of Vienna, Prague and Budapest than they did with Warsaw or Poznań. This is still true today, as Cracovians seem to have little practical use for Warsaw. Once, while recently traveling by train from Kraków to Warsaw I asked my fellow passengers – two young Kraków businessmen – if the train was going to Warsaw. "Tak, niestety!" ("Yes, unfortunately!") was the response.

From the beginning the Austrians needed to prove that their forceful acquisition of the large Polish territory was justified. For a time, they permitted Kraków to remain an independent political entity, but that soon proved to be problematic as Kraków quickly became the center of Polish national identity and the Poles' quest for independence. So, the justification came in the form of portraying Galicja and its inhabitants as crude, uncivilized, unruly and in need of Germanic civilization and discipline. Austrian – and many German – writers portrayed Galicja as worse than a cultural

continued on page 9

PAAA Resumes in-person Programming

Submitted by Matthew Stefanski, President, PAAA

The Polish American Arts Association resumed the tradition of hosting our annual Chopin Concert as a means to raise funds for our scholarship program. On March 6, Young Steinway artist Haley Miles kicked off her US tour with an all-Chopin recital at the Arts Club of Washington. According to Miles, "Chopin – and more specifically his Nocturnes – is the reason why I decided to become a classical pianist professionally."

The PAAA Chopin Concert, happening mere days after the start of Russia's renewed invasion of Ukraine, began with President Larkin leading the audience in a moment of silence, and all attendees received blue and yellow ribbons to display in solidarity with Ukraine. "Music has a special ability to connect and heal. Chopin's music, even in its most despondent moments, always maintains elements of hope and pride" said Miles. Earlier in February, the PAAA sponsored the second prize award in the 67th Kościuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition for young artists held in Washington, D.C. The award was presented to Jiana Peng, who is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music.

In May, Matthew Stefanski was elected President of the Arts Association. Stefanski, previously a board member, is the first former scholarship recipient to assume the Presidency. In his remarks he thanked outgoing President Larkin for her long-time commitment to the organization and for staying on as First Vice President.



Photos above and left: PAAA's annual Wianki Festival of Wreaths on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

*Opposite page:
Top right: PAAA officers Rose Kobylinski and Ted Mirecki, Steinway artist Haley Miles and former PAAA President Cecilia Larkin at the March Chopin concert at the Arts Club of Washington, D. C.*

Opposite page, bottom right: Outgoing PAAA President Cecilia Larkin presents the President's Gavel to newly elected President Matthew Stefanski.



Out-going treasurer Ted Mirecki and departing board members, Dr. Renata Greenspan and Bożenna Buda were also recognized for their many years of dedication to the PAAA. The Spring election meeting featured a special musical presentation dedicated to outgoing President Larkin performed by four musical artists in the PAAA: soprano Laura Kafka-Price, tenor David Cook, singer Stasia Skrypczuk and pianist Alvin Smithson. The American Council for Polish Culture also recognized our former President Cecilia Larkin with the 2022 Founders Award for her dedication to the ACPC and Polonia broadly. The PAAA joins in heartily congratulating Celia on this deserving recognition!

Our annual Wianki Festival of Wreaths once again took place at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D. C. This year, the festival featured the Mazury Folk Dance Ensemble from Atlanta, Georgia and PKM Polish Folk Dance Ensemble from Philadelphia. The Joyful Skrypczuk Duo entertained the audience with their musical performances, and Laura Kafka-Price sang the national anthems. A beautiful setting sun made for a glowing evening that will long be remembered by all who attended.

We invite all ACPC members and affiliates to keep up to date with PAAA undertakings by visiting our recently refreshed website www.paaa.us or facebook page which can be found under PAAA - Polish American Arts Association.



An idealized image of "typical" Galician peasants from the 1800s.

backwater full of crime, violence and ignorance. And no group was spared. Poles and Jews were particularly maligned as were the Polish gentry and aristocracy. Even the hygienic practices of Catholic and Orthodox clergy were often described in the most crude terms in writings and pamphlets widely distributed throughout the German speaking world.

For many years, anti-Galitzian sentiment became the official propaganda of the Hapsburg court. To outsiders, to be a *Galitzianer* was probably the worse put-down (and still is among some Jewish groups.)

But, somehow, within Galicia the inhabitants began to acquire a special identity, even pride. Certainly, there was a growing rivalry between such major cities as Kraków and Lwów, but, for the most part, the various ethnic groups co-habited, even flourished. For many of its residents and their descendants Galicia represented a long-ago paradise where the *krakowiak*, the Viennese waltz, the *czardas* and klezmer tunes were all played in harmony. This was particularly true during the relatively benign reign of Emperor Franz Joseph. I myself am a product of Galicia as both sides of my family originated there and I attended university there (in Kraków). So, I can honestly boast that I am – by both blood and inclination – a true and proud *Galicjanin*.

Galicia today is a subject of much study and research, both in Poland as well as Ukraine as the history, literature and cuisine are experiencing a resurgence in interest and there are several restaurants in southern Poland including Kraków that feature Galician cuisine.

In reality Galicia was certainly no paradise and there were occasional ethnic tensions and widespread poverty. The emigration of all four of my grandparents *za chlebem* (for bread) testifies to that fact. But throughout the long years since its demise, Galicia has continued to retain a special allure. Many years ago, while sitting in a Kraków café, I overheard two elderly *krakowianki* reminiscing about the old days. "Yes, things are fine now," said one of the ladies, "But when Franz Joseph was on the throne *to były czasy!*" (those were the days!)

We may live in the 21st century, but somehow our past still haunts us. The traditions and tastes remain. As do the memories. And the memories of Galicia are strong indeed.

LeMoyne Paintings Return to Poland

by Peter Obst

When Robert Moses, New York city planner, announced plans for the 1939-40 World's Fair now remembered widely as the "World of Tomorrow Fair," to take place in Flushing Meadows on Long Island, New York, government leaders in Poland took notice. They saw it as an opportunity for the Second Polish Republic, just about 20 years old, to showcase itself to the world. A commission to build and manage a pavilion was constituted, with Stephen de Ropp appointed as its head.

The pavilion opened with much fanfare on May 3rd, 1939. On display were products of the Polish manufacturing industry, commodities, items of art, folk culture and Polish history. The underlying idea was to present Poland as a nation that had a long established presence in Europe and was striving to become a modern democratic and industrial nation. There was also a restaurant that featured traditional Polish cuisine and servers in Polish folk dress.

A main display of the pavilion was the Hall of Honor that featured, in addition to other historical displays, seven paintings executed by the Brotherhood of St. Luke, a group of artists based in Kazimierz Dolny, a picturesque town on the Vistula River. Formed by renown Polish artist Tadeusz Pruszkowski, the group of 11 painted seven pivotal scenes from Polish history in a unique pre-Raphaelite style that was reminiscent of medieval art.

Stories about the pavilion appeared in the American press and in the Polish-language press. But the joy of having Poland on display at the New York Fair was short lived as WWII began on September 1, 1939. With Poland overrun by German and Russian armies, Stephen de Ropp was cut off from operating funds. He managed to keep the pavilion going using income from the restaurant and financial support from wealthy American friends of Poland. He even managed to stage a display that showed the destruction and barbarity visited upon the Polish people by the invaders.

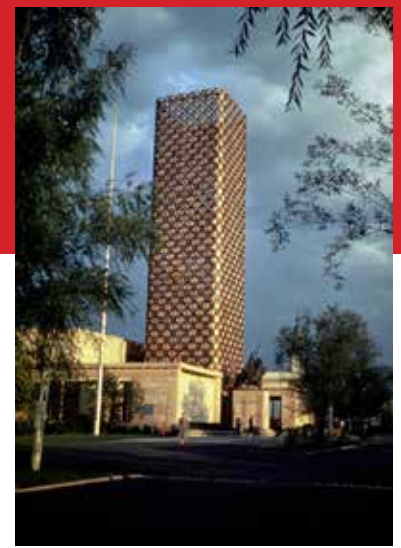
Though the pavilion stayed open to the end of the Fair, the many valuable objects and displays could not be shipped back to their place of origin. Thus began a long process of finding places for various items. Many found their way to the Polish American Museum in Chicago. Others were given into the care of Polish-American organizations and Polish diplomatic outposts. Some were sold at auction, as the pavilion had many outstanding debts that needed to be paid. In 1958 Stephen de Ropp placed the seven Brotherhood of St. Luke paintings, and four tapestries, into the stewardship of Le Moyne College in Syracuse. He died in 1983.



Top photo: The first in a series of seven paintings "Boleslaw the Brave meets Holy Roman Emperor Otto III in Gniezno;" bottom: "King Jan Sobiecki and the Relief of Vienna"

Over the years, there was renewed interest in Poland about the Polish Pavilion of 1939-40 and the seven historical paintings. After 1989 with a re-established democratic Poland, efforts began to open a dialogue about returning the paintings from Le Moyne College to Poland. Among several persons involved in this effort were Marek Skulimowski, then an assistant consul stationed in New York, and Boguslaw Winid, who served as Charge d'Affaires at the Polish Embassy in Washington D. C. Unfortunately, their efforts were rebuffed by then College President Fr. Charles J. Beirne SJ. The college position was that, in essence, there were no legal grounds on which Poland could claim these artworks. Furthermore, LeMoyne College had invested considerable funds in the conservation, care and keeping of the paintings. Confusing the issue further were individuals who visited the college and claimed that they represented the families of the artists and put forth a fallacious idea that the seven paintings were never the property of the Polish government.

In 2016 the effort to recover the paintings reached a new high-point when Poland's Minister of Culture, Piotr Gliński wrote to Linda LeMura, the new president of Le Moyne College. He explained the significance of the paintings to Polish culture and offered to refund the costs



Left: Poster for the 1939-40 Polish Pavilion at the NY Worlds Fair. Top center and right: Photographs of the Polish Pavilion.



incurred by the college in maintaining the paintings. For reasons unknown, an answer to this letter never reached his office.

Shortly thereafter, Jacek Miler director of the artwork recovery office in the Polish Ministry of Culture contacted me at the Poles in America Foundation, asking if I would be willing to undertake the effort to persuade those in charge at Le Moyne to consider the Polish position on this matter.

A lengthy campaign of letter-writing and personal contact led to Le Moyne College creating a committee to re-examine all aspects of the paintings which were in their care. The committee was headed by Fr. Joseph Marina SJ, the college's provost. Unfortunately, after lengthy deliberations the committee's answer reiterated the stance that the paintings were safe and well looked after.

After making several more appeals, I asked Deborah "Debbie" Majka, the local Honorary Consul for the Republic of Poland, to request a meeting with Fr. Marina to discuss the matter and allow us to present the Polish position on this matter. Fr. Marina agreed, and several weeks after the meeting, stated that the college was ready to discuss the terms under which the paintings would be returned to Poland to be eventually displayed in the new Poland National History Museum in Warsaw. In September of 2019 Culture Minister Gliński, and his office of Artwork Recovery, took over the negotiations.

On May 4, 2022 an agreement was signed between Le Moyne College, Poland's Ministry of Culture and Polish National History Museum in Warsaw for the return of the seven paintings and four tapestries back to their homeland.

The long wait was over.

Photos on this page:

Left: Signing of the transfer agreement: (l. to r.) Robert Kostro, director of the Polish National History Museum; Minister Piotr Gliński head of the Polish Ministry of Culture; and Linda LeMura, president of Le Moyne College.

Center photo: Members of the Brotherhood of St. Luke (1920s).

Bottom left: (l. to r.) Hon. Consul Deborah "Debbie" Majka; Inga Barnello - Le Moyne College Library Director; Fr. Joseph Marina- Le Moyne College Provost in the College library (Oct. 2018).

Editor's Note: Additional information on this project is featured on page 15.



AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR POLISH CULTURE \$5,000 PUŁASKI SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Eight winners of the 22nd annual \$5,000 Brig. Gen. Casimir Pułaski Scholarships were announced recently by the ACPC's Pułaski Scholarship for Advanced Studies Committee. Many applications (24) were received this year. The scholarship program was initiated 22 years ago as a result of a sizeable endowment by the Conrad R. Walas family with the continuing support from Polonia. Serving on the 2022 Pułaski Scholarship Committee are Dr. Stephen E. Medvec, Chairman; Deborah M. Majka; Carolyn Meleski and Peter J. Obst.

The exceptional qualities of schoolwork and research plus dedicated community services performed by the applicants made the final selection process very difficult. The Committee felt that most of the applicants deserved recognition for their outstanding achievements and honestly wished that funding was available which could have allowed for several more scholarship awards.

The Pułaski Scholarships Committee wishes these eight outstanding students continuing success and is confident that they will attain their career objectives fully. The Committee trusts that they will honor their heritage by ultimately remaining close to the Polish community wherever possible during their careers.

The Pułaski Committee selected the following students for the 2022 Pułaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies grants of \$5,000 each:



Patrycja Budzyk

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Patrycja received a BS degree in Rehabilitation Sciences and a minor in Polish from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). She is at present completing a Master of Science degree in Occupational Therapy, expected in July 2022, from UIC; she then intends to remain at UIC in order to pursue a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. Since her childhood, Patrycja has very much favored the field of healthcare. She chose a career in Occupational Therapy to give individuals the opportunity in putting the "fun in functionality," just as her mother was given the opportunity through her occupational therapist when diagnosed with stage-four pancreatic cancer. During the Summer of 2018, Patrycja studied abroad at the Jagiellonian University and also volunteered at the Angloville English Summer Camp in Zakliczyn, Poland where she mentored and immersed young adults, ages 8-18, in learning the English



Claudia Cheffs

A native of Los Angeles, California, Claudia earned a BA degree in Political Science with a minor in Conflict Resolution and a Certificate in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of California, Irvine. She is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Education with an emphasis on Educational Leadership at the University of California, Los Angeles, expected in June 2023. Claudia works as Department Administrator in the Political Science Department at UC Irvine. She is a native speaker of English, fluent in Polish, and a beginner in both French and Spanish. She has been invited to the Department of Justice, the World Bank, the Department of State, and the CIA. She has traveled in London, Moscow, Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Turkey, Armenia and Georgia. In 2014, Claudia interviewed Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski regarding Russia's occupation of Crimea.



Monika Chojnacki

A native of Webster, Massachusetts, Monika received a BS degree in Architecture from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D. C. She also studied in Rome in Spring 2010 through the CUA Architecture Abroad Program and at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow during the Spring of 2013. At present, Monika is completing her Masters in Historic Preservation at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, anticipated in Spring 2023. She is the author of *River Monsters of Webster, Massachusetts: How They Were Born, Lived and Died. A Short History of the Textile Revolution*. Monika also has conducted volunteer work in Peru, Poland, Japan, India and Panama. She is fluent in English and Polish, proficient in Spanish.



Veronica Kalicki

A native of Lyons, Illinois, Veronica received a BS degree in Mathematics from the University of Illinois at Chicago (2020) and is pursuing on-line studies for her Masters in Data Science from the University of Texas in Austin. At present, she is concurrently a full-time candidate for Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, anticipated for May 2025. Her research concentrates on the "Morse-Bott Theory on the moduli space of Higgs monopoles and the computation of its Betti numbers." This deals with a pair whose connections are reducible to fixed points of the circle action. Veronica also is a recipient of the Kościuszko Foundation Scholarship for Ph.D. studies, Fall 2021 to Spring 2022. She is a member of the Saint Mary of Częstochowa Parish in Cicero, Illinois.



Veronika Koziel

A native of Syosset, New York, Veronika earned a BS degree in Industrial and Labor Relations with a minor in Italian from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. She also studied in Italy and in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. She is currently pursuing her Master of Public Administration at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs in New York City, concentrating in Economic and Political Development, expected in May 2023. She is also a member of the Columbia Impact Investing Initiative, SIPA Sustainability Business Working Group (SBWG), and the International House (I-House) in New York City. Veronika is passionate about workplace conditions, human rights, and social responsibility. In the long term, she is interested in a career focusing on international labor, sustainability, and corporate social responsibility, particularly in industries with complex global supply chains.



Emilia Mikrut

A native of New York City born to parents who emigrated from Poland, Emilia holds a BA degree in Psychology and Interdisciplinary Studies (Summa Cum Laude) from Hunter College, City University of New York, and an MA in Clinical Psychology from St. John's University. At present, she is a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Clinical Psychology program at St. John's University. Broadly, her research focuses on understanding the effects of social determinants of health on psychological, behavioral, and medical outcomes. Emilia collaborates with physicians to conduct retrospective medical record studies, performance improvement projects, and large-scale initiatives that aim to understand and ameliorate health disparities among vulnerable populations. She is widely published, with articles on a range of topics from cancer caregiving to the psychological consequences of interpersonal discrimination. As a training clinician, Emilia also provides clinical services to a diverse set of patients across the New York City area.



Wojciech Piwowarczyk

A resident of Garfield, New Jersey, Wojciech earned a BS in Biology degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey. He has studied in the Polish-language school, a recipient of the Kościuszko Foundation Tuition Scholarship in 2020-2021, and a member of the Men's Soccer Team at FDU, including having been captain of the NCAA Tournament Team in 2019. He is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Physical Therapy, expected in 2023, at the School of Health Professions, Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He has personally contacted Senator Cory Booker and Congressman William Pascrell to shed light on the devastating cuts to physical therapy patients (9 percent reduction to PT services in Medicare). Wojciech is a devoted Roman Catholic at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Passaic, New Jersey. He wishes to assist the Polish community in its PT needs, including scoliosis.



Evangelista Schmarder

A native of Buffalo, New York, Evangelista has Polish roots going back to her great-great-grandparents. She received a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from the State University of New York at Fredonia and is pursuing a Masters of Music Education degree at The State University of New York at Fredonia, anticipated in January 2023. A percussionist throughout her college career, Evangelista has been both a student and a teacher to elementary students in drum set, snare, mallets, and voice. She blends music and costumes of African American and Polish American children. She also teaches Spanish and is active in St. Luke's Ministry of Mercy in Buffalo, New York. She also has suffered two major concussions.

A Polonia Potpourri

The Copernicus Foundation of Chicago just celebrated the 40th Anniversary of its Taste of Polonia Festival. Four days of cultural events included nonstop live music, dance performances, authentic Polish food and beer, exhibitions, local merchants and much, much more. The Taste of Polonia Festival is a popular one-of-a-kind food festival because of all the added entertainment and this year on Saturday September 3rd we were delighted by a wonderful concert by the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra, titled *A POLONIA POTPOURRI*.

The Polonia Potpourri concert, held at the Copernicus Center and organized and presented by the Chicago Chopin Society and the American Music Festivals encompassed a few world premieres.

The audience was enchanted by the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra that played with enthusiasm and appropriate spirit and was led by three individual conductors. Nobody expected that 100 year-old music can bring us so many surprises. Richard Wagner's *Polonaise* (yes, that Wagner of famous operas) originally written for two pianos, arranged, and conducted by Anatol Lysenka sounded fresh and proud.

As we enjoyed this wonderful and lovely concert, we commented that it could have been titled *Polonaise Potpourri* as in the evening scenario four polonaises were featured. All were absolutely delightful, but for us, members of the ACPC attending this concert, the most meaningful was the world premiere of our own composer, Director and the Founder of the Chicago Chopin Society, Dr. Jarosław Gołembowski's *Polonaise*. This musical composition, conducted by Philip Simmons, Music Director of the 35-piece Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra, was a most exciting, powerful musical creation dedicated to Ms. Jessica Jagielnik, Vice President of the Chicago Chopin Society and devoted patron of his music.

This was followed by *Haller's Triumphal March* by Frank Przybylski written over 100 years ago. Dr. Gołembowski unearthed this piece while archiving the many musical collections at the Polish Museum of America. This music was originally written for piano and concertina but orchestrated and conducted by Dr. Gołembowski especially for this concert. As this musical composition was performed, we sensed that it gave unexpected joy to the audience. The original title is *Triumfalny Marsz Hallera*, but for reasons not quite clear, was altered for this concert. In addition, what was a delightful and total surprise and very touching is that Jarosław dedicated this work to Henrietta Nowakowski for her dedication and untiring resolve to honor the Polish soldiers who left their homes, their jobs, and their families to join Józef Haller's Blue Army to fight in France and then in Poland for her freedom and independence in



Photo at top: Composer Jaroslaw Golembowski is congratulated by conductor Philip Simmons. Photo below: Conductor Philip Simmons (l) and Jaroslaw Golembowski (r).

1918-1920. When these men came back to America, they were often destitute and sick and were given burials in a cemetery section purchased by a group of patriotic Detroit women known as Korpus Pomocniczy Nr. 5. Mrs. Nowakowski took on the project together with the Polish Mission of Orchard Lake and the Polish Government to memorialize their sacrifice and love for their Motherland. Today, because of her dedication and many years of unwavering research these men will be remembered and honored with one large granite monument and in addition granite crosses on each of their graves, totaling 59. And as Jarosław said in his dedication to Mrs. Nowakowski, ... "what a remarkable legacy and extraordinary achievement and with great admiration I dedicate this music to my friend Mrs. Henrietta Nowakowski."

We will soon be privileged to attend the dedication of these monuments at the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield, Michigan.

As a note from the ACPC Public Relations Committee, we generously supported this concert at the last Convention in San Antonio and ACPC was proudly displayed as a supporter on the back page of the program which included the promotion of ACPC's Marcella Kochańska Sembrich Vocal Competition.

Submitted by,
Barbara Lemecha, Member, ACPC PR Committee

- A short video of an 8mm film from 1939, is available on YouTube under the title: *The Polish Pavilion - New York World's Fair, 1939-1940* (2:01 min.)
- A well illustrated, bi-lingual, award-winning book about Poland's participation in the 1939 World's Fair *Pawilon Polski na nowojorskiej wystawie światowej (1939-1940) i jego dalsze dzieje (The Polish pavilion at the New York World's Fair (1939-1940) and its subsequent fate)* by Krystyna Nowakowska (Ted Mirecki produced the English text) has been published. It is available from the Polish Museum of America in Chicago.
- A lecture given at the Institute of World Politics in Washington D.C. by Peter Obst about the pavilion's contents is viewable on YouTube under the title: *The Polish Pavilion at the 1939 New York World's Fair* (23:35 min).
- Polish Television (TVP Polonia) produced a two-part documentary in 2005 about this unique group of artists. It may be seen on YouTube as: *Lukaszowcy N.Y. '39* (in Polish) Total running time: 46:78 min. - parts I and II.
- The artists and the paintings are discussed at length in a booklet *Le Moyne College: Polish Legacy* (1982) compiled by the college library staff.
- The fate of some objects from the pavilion is described in the article *Forgotten Treasures of the Lost Pavilion* by Peter Obst in *Good News* 2015-16, p. 77-79.



The Statue of King Jagiello which was originally situated in front of the Polish Pavilion is now displayed in New York's Central Park.

- The Poles in America Foundation was established by historian Edward Pinkowski to research and document Polish-American history. He passed away in 2020 at age 103. His son, Jack is now President and Executive Officer of the Foundation. For more information and the Foundation's ongoing activities see: www.poles.org

New ACPC Pin Design

American Council for Polish Culture Celebrating 75 years of Polish Culture



Throughout history, the people of Poland, through their perservance and strength of character, bolstered by their faith in God, have overcome unbelievable odds. For centuries, reknowned Poles have made great contributions on the world stage in literature, music, art, science, politics, philosphy and theology. Poles continued their contributions in the development of our own nation, from Jamestown in 1608, to the Revolutionary War, to the halls of Congress and the White House of the present day. In the 20th and 21st centuries, Poles are continuing to be in the forefront of world affairs, from the downfall of Soviet communism to the Ukraine refugee crisis, making a huge positive contribution to the lives of millions. This is why we are proud as Poles. This is why we must continue to promote our Polish heritage. Where this pin with pride!

In all of us there is a hunger, marrow deep, to know our heritage—to know who we are and where we came from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning.
- Alex Haley, author of "Roots"



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