



Gen Dobry!

***** GEN DOBRY! *****

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Editor: William F. Fred Hoffman, E-mail: <wfh@langline.com>

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*** WELCOME! ***

to the latest issue of Gen Dobry!, the e-zine of PolishRoots(R). If you missed previous issues, you can find them at

http://polishroots.org/gendobry/gendobry_index.htm.

Don't forget to visit PolishRoots.org, the sponsor of _Gen Dobry!_, and take advantage of the many resources offered there. An easy way to keep up with all the latest additions to the site is to visit the "Recent Updates" page at:

<http://www.polishroots.org/news.htm>

Oh, yes, I forgot -- Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!

*** INTRODUCTION TO THE 1925 CATALOGUE OF THE COLLECTION OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF FINE ARTS ***

Translated for PolishRoots by Michalina Byra, Warsaw

[Editor -- As many of you will note, this subject is not closely connected with genealogy. Still, it may be one you'll find interesting. We tend to assume our ancestors were peasants, and certainly uneducated peasants did comprise a very large percentage of Polish immigrants. (That they were uneducated doesn't mean for a second they weren't bright people, of course; they just had little opportunity for formal schooling).

[But never forget that no small number of these Polish immigrants were educated, cultured people. The information found below, and on the PolishRoots page on this subject at http://www.polishroots.org/databases/warsaw_finearts.htm -- which includes a list of biographies of 250 artists -- may very well help you find links to ancestors who were figures of importance in Polish-American cultural life. (For information on Polish literary culture in America, check out Karen Majewski's book _Traitors and True Poles: Narrating a Polish-American Identity, 1880-1939_, ISBN 0-8214-1740-4).

[Anyway, take a moment and read this if you have any interest in Polish art, in Poland and elsewhere. You never know what's going to open a door for you!]

* INTRODUCTION *

The Towarzystwo Zachęty Sztuk Pięknych [The Society for the Encouragement of Fine Arts] was founded in 1860 and existed until 1939 (beginning during the time when Poland was partitioned). Its aim was to popularize and promote Polish art, to organize educational activities, help artists, organize exhibits, build up the collection of Polish art (purchasing works of art), give stipends to young artists, and engage in publishing activity. The collection of this Society's paintings was moved after the war to the National Museum in Warsaw, forming the national collection of Polish paintings. In 1900, the Society's seat was erected, and a neo-renaissance palace, which survived the war (one of the very few buildings not destroyed during World War II -- see photo on the Webpage mentioned above).

The Society was reactivated in 1990, and now its official name is Towarzystwo Zachęty Sztuk Pięknych przy Galerii Zachęta [Society for the Encouragement of Fine Arts at the

Zacheta Gallery]. This art gallery has become renowned in Poland.

* THE SOCIETY'S BEGINNING *

The Society for the Encouragement of Fine Arts (Towarzystwo Zachety) came into existence as an expression of the nationwide patriotic feeling which manifested itself with greater intensity than ever before during the period before the uprising of 1863. It was a public feeling that combined the mood of the time with developments in art, i.e. the growth of artistic production which could be observed as early as the first years of the second half of the 19th century. It was then that the fine arts, and especially painting, gained new importance, focusing in itself the creative reflex as well as a greater and greater number of noted talents.

Piotr Michalowski and Henryk Rodakowski paved the way for Polish painting abroad, whereas in Poland several of Piwarski's young pupils started their career as painters drawing their inspiration from Polish folk traditions.

This epoch witnessed the emergence of works of art produced by outstanding Polish painters who were soon to enter the worldwide arena. The works reached deep into the heart of the national spirit, and, by means of their beauty, exerted influence on vast circles of the society.

The Society began its activity by answering the need of the moment, and thus it became a link between Polish art that was flowering at the time and a general public that had become more and more aware of it.

The idea of building up the museum collection of Polish art was implemented with the founding of Towarzystwo Zachety. Its founders, from the very start, were driven by the need to create a museum, and this task was included in the Society's charter.

* THE SOCIETY GROWS *

The newly established Society was offered the painting "Zgon Barbary" (The Demise of Barbara) by Jozef Simmler, which formed the nucleus of Zacheta's museum collection. This famous and impressive painting was purchased from its creator by a group of Zacheta's friends on the initiative of two committee members, Baron Edward Rastawiecki and Aleksander Przedziecki. It became the cornerstone of the future Museum. Afterwards, the following made donations: Kazimierz Podhorski, Kazimierz Przyszychowski, Leopold Burczak Abramowicz (who donated 14 paintings), Adolf Kurtz, Stanislaw Kostrowicki, Alfred Schoupe, Roman Wierzchlejski, the families of artists who passed away, and finally the artists themselves, who eagerly donated their self-portraits. The collection grew up gradually, but very slowly, in spite of the fact that subsequent committees purchased outstanding works of art as opportunity permitted. Proof that the collection was being built up steadily and slowly is the fact that the works of art acquired could be listed in the annual report of the Society for over 20 years (from the time the Society was established up to the end of 1883).

An epoch-making event in the history of Zacheta's museum collections was the purchase of Matejko's painting "The battle of Grunwald" for 25,000 rubles. That painting was bought on the initiative of the president at the time, Doctor Benni, and with the funds raised by the friends of the Society. Twenty-three works of art by other artists were also purchased with these funds. The collection was called "The Museum of Fine Arts", and it bore a disclaimer that the Society was not allowed to resell or deposit them. The museum started to grow rapidly when its building was erected and when Ludwika Gorecka, nee Linda, bequeathed a building bordering on the edifice of Zacheta especially to the museum. Since then, numerous collections had been donated. They were the collections of: L. Norblin, Bardzki, Bloch, the Counts Czosnowski, Doctor Hassewicz, Wislicki, Malachowska, Doctor Checichowski, F.Gebethner; as well as gifts from the families of deceased artists: Siemiradzki, Maszynski, Lesser, Simmler, Czachorski, and many others.

* RECENT DEVELOPMENTS *

During recent years also the funds allocated to purchasing works of art for the Museum have been growing. It has become customary to purchase the more outstanding works of art after the death of their creators and to ensure that great artists are adequately represented in the collection. The Museum holds works by: Matejko, Siemiradzki, Brandt, Chelmonski, Aleksander and Maksymilian Gierymski, Kossak, Rygier, Malczewski, Falat, Wyczolkowski, and nearly all contemporary artists.

Presently, the lack of enough space constitutes an obstacle to the Museum's further growth. It is already hard to house all those works of art. The planned extension of the building will provide a remedy. In any case, the collection, as it is now, is extremely rich, and it wholly reflects our contemporary art history as well as its historical development.

[Editor -- Remember that this article was written in 1925. So when the author refers to "contemporary" art and artists, it refers to that time frame.]

*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: Shrines Website

Thank you for another great issue of _Gen Dobry!_. I always seem to find a great website to visit each month. This last issue had a website from Andy Jendrzewski [<http://www.kapliczki.tc.pl/kapliczki.html>], the shrines of the countryside of Poland. When I visited the site, I clicked onto Mazowsze. What should appear but my father's village, Nick kolo Lidzbarka! There was a shrine to St. John Nepomucene. I don't recall ever having been in a church by that name. Will now have to learn more about this saint and why he would have been so important to this little village.

I did leave a note at the website, thanking the photographer for the photo. Thanks to

Andy also for passing on this website.

Armela Hammes <armelahammes@att.net>

[Editor -- I'm very pleased that you usually find something worth checking in each issue. That's what I'm trying to do, and it's a pleasure to hear from someone who thinks I'm succeeding. I especially love it when people say I helped them find something directly connected with their families, as in this case with your finding the link with your father's village. It makes my day to hear that!

Subject: Polish dictionaries

I enjoyed your article on Polish-English dictionaries in the November 2003 issue of *Gen Dobry!*. Regarding the 2-volume New Kosciuszko Foundation Dictionary (English-Polish, Polish-English), I ordered it from my favorite source of Polish books, Polonia Bookstore at <http://www.polonia.com>. It cost \$100.00 plus \$10.00 shipping for a total of \$110.00. It took less than a week to arrive, and yes, it does include the CD version of the book. I bought the dictionary mainly to get the CD.

Unfortunately, there's bad news for us Macintosh users. The CD is Windows only. It won't work on either my desktop or laptop, both of which are Macs. Hopefully, some of my computer geek buddies can help me overcome this hurdle, because I'd love to use it in my laptop when I'm traveling.

Ken Choromanski <Kenchorski@aol.com>

[Editor -- I did not realize the CD is Windows only. I am surprised; you would think people publishing reference works would realize the Mac market for such works should not be overlooked! I hope your friends can help you get that CD working. I find it very handy, and it'd be a shame if you couldn't use it, too.]

Subject: Polish-English / English-Polish Dictionaries

I believe I picked up Collins Polish>English & English>Polish Dictionary, First Edition (Bank of English) Polska Oficyna Wydawnicza, Editor-in-chief Prof. Jacek Fisiak (2 volume set, ISBN 0 00 470529-7), two years ago for approximately \$29 US dollars through <http://www.amazon.co.uk>.

Can't vouch for how good it is as I have not used it much. I am not sure if this is the one you referenced toward the end of your article.

I believe it comes on CD also, don't quite remember.

Ed Potereiko <epotereiko2@hotmail.com>

[Editor -- I don't think is exactly the same one I mentioned, but it's probably similar. It's certainly worth mentioning to our readers, giving them one more item to check out.]

Subject: Polish translation aids

I've been reading last issue of _Gen Dobry! and I'd like to send you this link:

<http://www.freelanguagetranslation.net>

It's a very useful (for me, at least :D) translation aid from/to several languages. But if you translate from Polish to Spanish, for example, it couldn't be as good as if you did it Polish to English. If it's useful for some, I usually check the translation that the Internet source in this way: I write in English and then translate to Polish. And then I translate the Polish text I got to English ... if the result I got is close to the original, I think the Polish text is right.

Adrian Pajakiewicz <pajakiewicz@ciudad.com.ar>

[Editor -- Yes, it's a good idea to double-check translations this way. Online translation aids are a mixed bag -- sometimes they give you something useful, sometimes not. Adrian is smart to use this method, to get at least some approximate idea of how accurate the translation is.

[Incidentally, some may find this site hard to connect to. The first time I tried I couldn't get on. But if you try again later you should be able to connect. Thanks to Adrian for passing this information along.]

Subject: Poles in Latvia

In the course of my research in my family history the possibility they came from far northeastern Vilna gubernia (now part of Latvia) aroused my curiosity. I discovered the following page on the net: http://www.latinst.lv/n_minorities/poles.htm, entitled "Poles In Latvia," that provides a good background on the subject. Other searches discovered there exists a strong Polish minority in the southeastern part of the country. Anyone interested should search for Latgale.

This is especially significant to me since the potential cousin in Belarus who I am comparing my DNA with is from just the other side of the Latvia/Belarus border from the Latgale region. Also, my surname Klemanowicz, is derived from Kleman. The article Poles in Latvia notes, "The Polish nobility in Latgale consisted mainly of polonised

descendants of former German Knights of the Livonian Order, ..." Kleman is an obvious Germanic form.

For now I am hopeful the Y-chromosome tests prove a match with my cousins. I've already matched with an unknown person in Latvia from their European database.

I hope that some of the above will prove of interest to some of your readers. We tend to forget that countries like Latvia were under Polish influence for over 300 years.

Stanley Klemanowicz <stanklem@msn.com>

[Editor -- Excellent point! Poles did indeed live in Latvia and play a role in that country's history. Your comments may help some of our readers ... Incidentally, in a later note Stanley said it turned out the DNA tests showed no link. But he's still glad he had the test done. We sometimes forget, even negative results are valuable. The more false leads we eliminate, the closer we come to finding the true leads that will take us somewhere.]

Subject: Follow-up to Ceil Jensen's article

BTW, here's a follow up to the Nov. 2003 _Gen Dobry!_ Tczew/ Wendt article regarding my meeting with a Wendt family in Poland. Since they had a birth out of wedlock I had to eliminate the DNA testing and had to prove it with traditional research. I found out that we really are related. I had to go back to the late 1700s to identify our mutual ancestors: Antoni and Jacob Wenta who were brothers. Our mutual ancestor Pawel Wenta was born ~ 1736. Funky!

Strange to think that this family is a branch of my own.

Ceil Wendt (Wenta) Jensen <cjensen@mipolonia.net>

*** HELP WITH POWIATY AND WOJEWODZTWA ***

by Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net>

[Editor -- Debbie Greenlee posted this note on the Poland-Roots mailing list. It gives some help with the administrative divisions of Poland, dealing with which can present a formidable challenge for newbies who find out some info on where their ancestors came from, but can't make sense of it. Debbie's pointers may look confusing, but I think with a little practice you will find them very helpful.]

We don't talk much about _powiaty_ [counties, singular _powiat_], so you may not know

the powiat for your particular ancestral village in Poland. And perhaps you don't know the new województwo [province] for your village (rarely is this needed in genealogy research since these new provinces only came about in Jan.1999).

Here is a site that should help you determine your powiat and województwo:

<http://www.agnus.plusgsm.pl/zasieg/woj1.htm>

(That's a number one after "woj".)

The pages list villages and powiaty according to the new województwo. The page that comes up is for the NEW province Zachodnio-Pomorskie.

In order to find out in which NEW province your OLD one was located, go to this site:

<http://hum.amu.edu.pl/~zbzw/ph/pro/plpro.html>

Now, back to the village/powiat site:

<http://www.agnus.plusgsm.pl/zasieg/woj1.htm>

In order to access the other NEW wojewodztwa and powiaty, simply change the number 1 (one) in the URL to a 2, 3, 9, 16, and so on and click. Remember there are now 16 provinces in Poland (more confusion?).

The list of numbers that correspond to new provinces for the Website mentioned above is as follows:

1. Zachodniopomorskie
2. Pomorskie
3. Warminsko-Mazurskie
4. Podlaskie
5. Lubuskie
6. Wielkopolskie
7. Kujawy-Pomorskie
8. Mazowieckie
9. Lubelskie Lublin
10. Dolnoslaskie
11. Opolskie
12. Slaskie
13. Malopolskie
14. Podkarpackie
15. Swietokrzyskie
16. Lodzkie

Example -- the URL for the new woj. Mazowieckie would read:

<http://www.agnus.plusgsm.pl/zasieg/woj8.htm>

Rereading these instructions sure seems confusing, but once you try it, all will become clear! I think. ;)

*** POLISH TRIVIA QUESTIONS ***

[Editor: PolishRoots Vice President Paul Valasek <paval56@aol.com> came across a Polish trivia game with a variety of questions in various categories. Some are simple, some quite challenging. See if you know the answers, which will appear in the next issue of *_Gen Dobry!_*. We want to thank Tom Bratkowski for permission to reprint these.]

General

-- What Polish-American fraternal organization has athletics as its focus?

Humanities

-- What character did Marlon Brando play in the movie, "A Streetcar Named Desire"?

History

-- In what country did Kosciuszko die?

People

-- In what U.S. city was Polish-American actress Loretta Swit born?

Geography

-- In what Polish city is the historic Sukiennice or Cloth Hall located?

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*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

[Note: the PolishRoots Events Calendar <http://www.polishroots.org/coming_events.htm> usually has more info than we have room for here. If you have an event coming up you want Polish genealogical researchers to know about, send as much info as possible to <Events@PolishRoot.org>.]

January 8-11, 2004

**POLISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

To be held in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the American Historical Association.
For the full program visit their site at www.polishamericanstudies.org.

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January 22-24, 2004

NGS-Gentech
St. Louis, MO

For details visit:

http://www.eshow2000.com/ngsgentech/register_now.cfm

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January 24, 2004

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA MEETING

LA-FHC, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles CA

Dr. Robert S. Sherins will speak on using maps in genealogical research. For more information see www.pgscs.org.

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February 21, 2004

The Legion of Young Polish Women will present its 2004 debutantes at the 65th Annual White and Red Ball at the Grand Ballroom, Chicago Hilton Towers. For further information write: Legion of Young Polish Women, 5216 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago IL 60630.

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March 27, 2004

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA MEETING

LA-FHC, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles CA. For more information see
www.pgscsca.org.

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April 16-19, 2004

UNITED POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES
Biennial Conference
Salt Lake City, Utah

To be held at:

Best Western Salt Lake Plaza Hotel
122 West South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

To make reservations call: 800-366-3684. Identify yourself with "United Polish
Genealogical Societies." Guaranteed Rates: Single/Double -- \$79.00 per night,
Triple/Quad -- \$86.00 per night

Conference Speakers:

Daniel Schlyter
Ceil Jensen
George Ott
Sonja Nishimoto

Conference Fee: \$70:00 includes admission to sessions, materials packet, Sunday
morning breakfast buffet, Monday hospitality, and dinner banquet.

Travel Arrangements: Make your own travel arrangements. Airlines serving Salt Lake
City include American, Continental, Delta, Southwest, Northwest, & United. Be sure to
check the Internet for discounted fares, e.g., www.lowestfare.com, www.expedia.com,
www.priceline.com, www.southwest.com, etc.

The 2004 conference is co-hosted by PGS-California and PGS-America. Paul Lipinski is
the chairperson. Email: Paul.Lipinski@acm.org.

Additional conference particulars will be announced in the coming months. Check the
Websites PGSCA.org and PolishRoots.org for additional information as it becomes
available. Or contact Paul Lipinski <Paul.Lipinski@acm.org>.

*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***

<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/review/20031224.txt>

The December 24th issue of *_Roots Web Review_* (Vol. 6, No. 52, available at the URL above) includes "Alternatives to IRCs" (International Reply Coupons). This article details several good suggestions on how to to prepay postage for folks you correspond with in Poland or other countries without using IRCs, which can be hit-or-miss (people in other countries often have no idea what these pieces of paper are, and throw them away). One clever gentleman finds out how much the postage will be, then contacts a local stamp dealer to buy mint-condition stamps in that amount for the country in question and encloses them with his correspondence. He says this is a cheap, convenient way to handle the matter. There are other good ideas, too. I strongly recommend reading this article!

http://www.hamburg.de/fhh/behoerden/staatsarchiv/link_to_your_roots/english/index.htm

The December 21 issue of *_Nu? What's New?_* (Avotaynu's e-zine for Jewish genealogy) mentioned that the Hamburg Emigrant Lists on the Internet have been updated through 1905. So the site continues to grow and include more data. Be sure to check it every so often for the latest updates.

<http://www.mylanguageexchange.com>

On the Genpol mailing list, Alice <aliceboss@juno.com> said she used this site to contact a young teacher in Gorlice who wanted an online American pen pal so she could improve her English. Alice said she's learned a bit about Polish by exchanging info with her pen pal. There is a modest fee to register, but there are 400 or so people from Poland registered who'd like to practice their English. If you get lucky and find a contact living in your area of interest, it can be a huge help in learning about the history, customs, language, etc.! So it's one more potential source of info that might be worth checking.

<http://www.wcrl.ars.usda.gov/cec/java/lat-long.htm>

On the Galicia mailing list, Laurence Krupnak <Lkrupnak@erols.com> suggested using this site to calculate the Great Circle Distance between any two points on Earth. This can tell you, for instance, how far Krakow is from Grodno, or Poznan from Minsk. You never know when some prosaic bit of data like that might have a bearing on your research.

<http://www.caw.wp.mil.pl/>

On the same list, Laurence also responded to a request on where to write to get info on military records of ethnic Poles born in the Ukrainian part of Galicia. He cited the address above, as well as <http://www-hoover.stanford.edu/hila/easteurope.htm>

<http://pirmojiknyga.mch.mii.lt/Leidiniai/Prusviet.en.htm#vietovardziai>

For those with roots in what used to be East Prussia (Lithuania Minor), now ruled by

Russia as the province of Kaliningrad, it can be very difficult to keep track of the names of places. They have been called by names in German, Lithuanian, and Russian. This site may help you put them together. It was pointed out by Thomas Sadauskas <Thomas.Sadauskas@tma.osd.mil> on the Lithuanian Genealogy mailing list.

<http://people.stevemorse.org/gayle.riley/>

For those interested in learning more on the Magnates of Eastern Europe, Gayle Schlissel Riley <Key2pst@pacbell.net> posted a note on the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup mentioning this page on Steve Morse's Website. This resource can be used in addition to Avotaynu's page on this subject at <http://www.avotaynu.com/magnates.htm>.

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/phonepo/pophone.html>

On the Poland-Roots mailing list Ceil Jensen <cjensen@mipolonia.net> gave this link to a page on "Telephone Directories from Poland" at the Website of the Library of Congress European Reading Room (basic site: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/european/>).

<http://www.uazone.net/gallery/links.html>

On the Galicia mailing list Svetlana (per Bohdan Yurkiv) <boss@alphalink.com.au> mentioned that this site has photos of old and new Ukraine, to show how ancestors from that country lived. These sites were also recommended: <http://galiciana.lta.lviv.ua/> and <http://www.karpaty.com.ua/gallery/fullgallery.php3?PHPSESSID=ed7102b71c1fe51d0ea7ba9b730357e0>. (Please note, that last URL will not work unless copied as one long line into the address box of your browser).

<http://www.imagepartners.co.uk/Thesaurus/Search.aspx>

On the Lithuanian Genealogy mailing list, Terry <TerryinSR@aol.com> said this was a fun site to try out. "When you enter your surname, it lists all the soundex and other variations of your surname and even tells you how many hits it has for each name. For those who are unsure of original spellings, it might give you some new ideas for searching!"

<http://www.geocities.com/tfboettger/russian/rusgen.htm>

On the Herbarz mailing list, Nikolai v. Pock <pokrzywnickiana@yahoo.de> pointed out that T. F. Boettger's comprehensive index on Russian nobility with hints at sources is available at this site.

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