

# THE POLISH REVIEW

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VOL. IV. No. 23  
JUNE 14, 1944

Polish Junior Air Cadets



# Manchester Guardian Presents Mikolajczyk Policy

**P**OLISH PREMIER MIKOLAJCZYK said that in his view the time is not yet ripe for final decisions and agreements. Such decisions, he thinks, and particularly settlements of Poland's frontiers, belong essentially to the period of peacemaking. Until that time the status under which Poland entered the war should be recognized.

A country still engaged in a desperate struggle, Mikolajczyk argues, cannot be expected to accept proposals or demands which would entail a fundamental change in its social, economic and geographical structure. The Polish people themselves refuse to consider any such policy and would actively resent attempts to impose it upon them. A nation whose war victims on its home soil alone number between four and five millions cannot but regard the demand for cession of forty-five per cent of its former territory as in direct contradiction to the cause for which it has been fighting inside and outside the country for almost five long years. In any case, the Constitution stands in the way of any independent Polish authority being able to agree to anything of the kind.

Political arguments are still stronger, among them being the belief that when the time for final decisions has arrived the liberated nations will speak with full freedom. Considerations of feeling, not easily analyzed, make it even more impossible to convince the people of Poland that the present is the moment for adding to their burden of sorrow and sacrifice.

In Mikolajczyk's opinion settlement of the frontier question should be postponed until Poland is once more free and a nation which can collaborate with the fullest use of its authority towards a definite solution. Meanwhile, no effort should be spared to reach a working agreement with Russia. Not only does the military situation demand it but it is also highly desirable for the sake of arriving at a stage of mutual understanding; for this would undoubtedly influence later decisions, to say nothing of its value to the European situation in general.

Premier Mikolajczyk still holds to the offer his government made last January, to the effect that Russia and Poland should agree on a demarcation line—without frontier commitment—running from East of Wilno to East of Lwow. The offer implied that west of the demarcation line the Polish government should be the recognized authority for administering to the liberated territory while the East would come under Russian jurisdiction. Mikolajczyk says that in making this offer he went farther than he was authorized to go by the Polish Underground Movement or, to be precise the underground state of Poland. He felt certain, however, of the support of the majority of Poles. The Prime Minister is convinced that the arrangement would

meet the immediate requirements ensuring complete cooperation between the Polish Underground state and Russia and would also pave the way for the legitimate settlement of the frontier problem and for good relations between the Soviet Union and a strong and independent Poland.

The German question and establishment of Poland's Western frontier is not one of compensation but of security. In this connection, he laid emphasis on the uncompromising demand of the Underground movement for a Western frontier that will be strategically secure. This means, in the first place, that there are to be no German inhabitants on Polish territory. Granted that lasting hatred is not beneficial to international politics, it is hardly possible to ignore or rapidly alter feelings of those who have been through years of ordeal. They cannot easily forget nor will they be inclined to classify the responsibility. The terror exercised by Germany, the secret police and officials, by flying squads and special courts is not attributed by Poles to a political party or to the armed forces of the Reich but to Germany and the German people. It is this attitude which will decide Poland's attitude to Germany. From the point of view of her Western security Poland will ask for the inclusion of East Prussia and Silesia within her boundaries. Silesia with its longstanding Polish tradition, declared Premier Mikolajczyk, has, as a result of transfer of heavy industry, become one of the main danger centers. Much of Germany's heavy industry including synthetic oil production is now located in Silesia. It must now come under Polish direction.

Although fully aware of the great difficulties facing his country, Premier Mikolajczyk has no doubt of the ability of the Polish people to build a new Poland. Preparations are already in hand both in this country and inside Poland. The general plan is that authorities will be chosen by general elections so that a new and freely voted parliament can decide on a new constitution. A parliament will then decide the extent of the nationalization of the country's resources and state control of production with private ownership probably forming the basis, the community retaining a proportion of control. Premier Mikolajczyk is confident that although the Agrarian position has often been misrepresented abroad there will be reforms, with more of the big estates being divided into privately owned peasant farms. In connection with Poland's agricultural expansion there is further need for industrialization in order to improve the general standard of living. How this will be accomplished will be decided by democracy inclusive of all religious denominations and all political creeds now linked contrafascism. Such a democracy demands the right to be the master in its own house and to undertake its own national and international obligations.

(Manchester Guardian,  
June 2, 1944.)

"In Poland the instinct of liberty among the people is equal to the instinct of hatred toward those who have suppressed it."

—Stanislaw Thugutt (1873-1941)  
"Why Am I A Democrat?" (1929)

## WOMEN'S FRONT IN POLAND

A LONELY, desperate journey through a dark forest, a dangerous mission on a train under the watchful eyes of the Gestapo, teaching in a hidden school, circulating an underground paper, these are some of the tasks of Polish women today, for in the epic struggle against the German invaders, Polish womanhood is doing its full share.

Polish women had to fight for the privilege of participating in the Underground effort. Age-old prejudices and doubts that women could be trusted with important secrets, that they broke down more quickly than men under torture, had to be dispelled. The part they play in the Underground has proved their worth. Not only are they active in all phases of the fight, but are even able to perform certain duties better than men.

Poland is connected by hundreds of invisible ties with the outside world, the heart of which is London, seat of the Polish Government. Orders, reports, information, money, supplies, stream to and fro through all kinds of mysterious channels. When, after victory, the full story of the Polish Underground movement is written, the world will be amazed at what Polish women have achieved!

Communication is perhaps the greatest field taken over by these women soldiers. At present, contact between the high command and units of the Home Army is maintained with great difficulty. The arbitrary interior frontiers set up by the Germans between the various parts of Poland, the complete absence of automobiles and buses, the heavily-guarded railroads, make communication and liaison work particularly difficult.

This service demands great physical endurance, moral stamina, coolness, presence of mind, and ingenuity. Night after night women couriers travel alone on foot by dangerous paths, hurrying to their objectives, following forest brooks, sliding over wet leaves, falling into mud holes. In the freezing cold of winter, the rains of the Polish autumn, the heat of midsummer, their courage never falters for an instant.

Herds of elk sometimes watch these strange intruders who break into their woodland retreats, or an old fox wandering alone on a moonlit meadow, brushing dew from the grass with his bushy tail, is startled out of its life.

The Polish Underground is divided into two parts: the so-called operational units, used in sabotage and guerrilla activities; and the regular army, organized and constantly trained to be used at the right moment. The members of the operational units are constantly under arms, live away from their homes in the ranks of their commands and have virtually nothing in common with the normal life of their countrymen. Always ready for action, these operational units live in special hiding places, mainly in the forests. Every possible profession, creed and social status is represented.

One of the most striking features of these units is that women are now admitted on an equal footing with men. Women play an important role in the upkeep of these units, and also in actual operations. These are always planned in advance and carried out according to a schedule prepared with



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1943 ROK

*Underground magazine published for and by women.*

the utmost care and secrecy. As little as possible is left to chance and much responsibility rests on the woman in charge of signals, liaison and communications. In this sphere Polish women render the most invaluable service. Delicate and dangerous missions of reconnoitering movements of German troops, ascertaining the whereabouts of the heads of police and civilian administration, carrying dispatches and orders, operating wireless sets, etc., to say nothing of routine maintenance and the supply of food and munitions are usually assigned to them.

The tactics of underground warfare, the need to keep alive all the vital political organs of the nation, in spite of the efforts to stifle them of a skillful and ruthless enemy have given women their chance to help. They are constantly outwitting and defeating a system developed since 1940 all over Europe but at its highest pitch of efficiency in Poland.

If by some magic ray one could project on a screen the contents of Polish women's bags, purses, compacts, shopping baskets, wardrobes, linen closets, storerooms, pantries, laundries, nurseries, attics and cellars, you would discover in addition to the many items normally to be found there, all the paraphernalia of underground warfare from hand grenades and radio sets to printed sheets, stencilled circulars, and American green backs.

A radio receiving set was operated by a former school-teacher, hidden in the family vault of a cemetery in Lwow. Another was found by the German police in a pigeon-house owned by a seventeen-year-old girl in the country, whose peacetime hobby was raising pigeons. She was executed in the public square of Skierniewice.

In a remote village in Western Poland, an old peasant woman sat at her spinning wheel. The addresses and pseudonyms of members of an underground unit were secreted next to the spool, beneath many layers of flaxen thread. You had to turn the wheel a great many times before the paper came to light.

On the first of November, All Souls' Day, it is an old tradition in the Polish Army to pay tribute to the fallen. Every unit gathers on parade and the commanding officer reads the list of their fallen comrades, who died in active service. After each name is read aloud, the soldiers on parade answer: "Fell on the field of honor!" To the long list of Polish soldiers thus honored, many names of Polish girls and women will now be added.

But military service is not the only field in which Polish  
(Please turn to page 13)

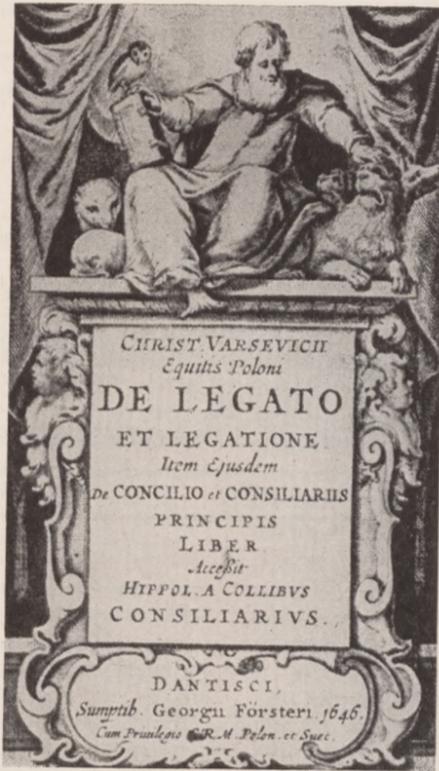
# LOVE OF PEACE—AN AGE-OLD POLISH TRADITION

by DR. ALFRED BERLSTEIN

Poland's age-old peace traditions were of slow and steady growth and by no means transplanted from the West. For centuries, the policy of Poland was always opposed to brutal conquest and based on free and friendly cooperation with her neighbors. It is true Poland was involved in many bloody wars, inevitable by her geographical position, but none was ever begun by Poland, for she lacked entirely the philosophy of brutal expansion. Stark necessity made good soldiers of the Poles. They were surrounded by ambitious and powerful nations, hungry for slices of Polish land. They had to defend themselves or to perish. Poland's wars were always defensive wars. Poland's leading statesmen, politicians, diplomats, thinkers, preachers, even some of her most brilliant war leaders were ardent champions of peace. Strange to say, the political structure of old Poland before the partitions, a structure rightly criticized, was based on the ideals of peace and disarmament. The illusion unfortunately to become a pillar of Polish foreign policy, that a weak Polish Republic without aggressive aims would never be attacked, was utterly fallacious. At the same time, it was one of the main reasons of the political catastrophe. But this illusion shows how deep-rooted in Poland was the belief in peace.

For centuries peace was merely a political condition prevailing in intervals between wars. It was a purely negative condition. Even Hugo Grotius's famous treatise "*De iure belli et pacis*" shows the subordination of peace to the main interest of war. For centuries no deliberate plan of preserving peace has been carried into effect. The *pax romana* of antiquity was merely peace within an empire governed by a central authority. Then the feudal system in the Middle Ages was a system for offensive or defensive war, and in no way an organized attempt to maintain peace. The Holy Roman Empire was in some respects an agent for the preservation of peace among its constituent States. The spiritual influence of the Church was exerted to keep relative peace among feudal princes.

All these trends were also felt in Poland. But here after the end of the 14th century, a peculiar situation had arisen. One of the most militant orders of the Middle Ages, the Teutonic Knights of the Cross, clashed with the Polish *raison d'etat*. At the Council of Constance that met from 1415 to 1418 the Poles were accused of having made an alliance with the heathen Lithuanians and a Polish scholar, Pawel Wlodkowicz of Brudzew, who took part in the debates as Ambassador of the King of Poland and Rector of Cracow University, submitted a memorandum on "the right and the wrong war." The author developed the thesis that it was not permissible to seek the conversion of pagans by ruining their possessions, when no other special motive justified war. "We know from the Scriptures," the Polish envoy said,



De Legato et Legatione  
by Krzysztof Warszewicki, 1645.

"that Christ spread his faith by means of . . . modest teaching and virtuous behavior. His apostles acted likewise and commanded their successors to imitate them because the Law of the Gospel is one of love, concord and peace and not one of fear, wrangling and war, which is condemned in the Scriptures."

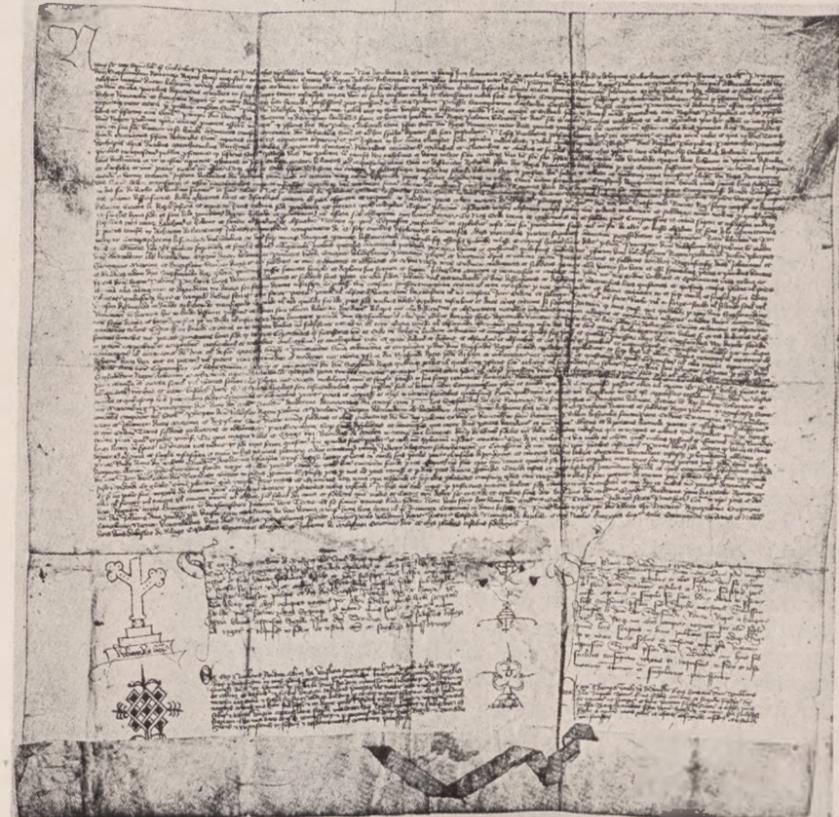
The memorable Union of Poland and Lithuania united implacable foes in a single political organization, giving them equal civic rights. The Act of Union of Radom in 1401 contains the characteristic passage: ". . . we became united by means of the Holy Faith . . . and hereby irrevocably bind ourselves to support each other . . . with all our strength against all invasions . . ."

And in the Charter of Piotrkow of 1501 we read: ". . . Experience teaches us daily that such principles (justice, stability and concord) not only fortify empires, kingdoms . . . but miraculously develop them because peace allows small things to grow, while discord destroys even the greatest."

These basic ideas of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth can be found in all agreements between King and nation (the nobles and landed gentry being then in

Poland as elsewhere in Europe identical with the nation). The pact of Koszyce, signed between King Ludwik and the Szlachta in 1374 on which the democracy of the gentry was based, contained a stipulation that the nobility and gentry were bound to military service only within the borders of Poland. The idea was to prevent offensive wars. In the *pacta conventa* at the election of King Henry of Valois in 1573, the King undertook to act as mediator in order to avoid wars as far as possible. There is an unbroken series of anti-war provisions in the public laws of Poland right up to the Constitution of May 1791 whereby the King's right to declare war was finally transferred to the Chamber of Deputies which alone had powers to decide on "all questions concerning war and peace."

Poland's position as a great power in the 15th and 16th centuries was achieved when the access to the Baltic had been secured following the defeat of the Teutonic Knights. When Turks and Tartars were kept in check and Muscovy had not yet developed into a serious menace, Poland occupied a preponderant place on the map of Europe, and her neighbors were attracted to her as a great center of liberty under law and of refined culture. In his great work "*De Republica Emendanda*" Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski outlined ideas of political reform far in advance of the political doctrines of the day. His penetrating criticism of the injustice and inequality of Poland's social system made him the champion of equality before the law of all three estates of her citizens. Book III of his work deals with the problem of war, and these words might have been written in our time: "All possible care should be taken that war be averted . . . To avoid the necessity of going to war, peace must be preserved as much as possible with all neighboring peoples and we must never commit an act that would give them just cause to take hostile action against us . . ." Of arbitration he said: "Usually, mutual agreements are entered into between nations and lords who, as they have no judge, elect of their own free will a judge from both sides to decide the dispute . . ." Throughout her history, Poland has had frequent recourse to arbitration. Even the dispute with the Teutonic Knights was submitted in 1412 to the arbitration of the Holy Roman Emperor but the Knights



Poland was one of the first countries to accept the principle of international mediation. During the prolonged conflict between Poland and the Teutonic Knights of the Cross the Poles agreed to the Emperor's mediation, but the Germans rejected the final verdict. Reproduced here is the letter of the Imperial delegate, recording the Teutonic refusal to abide by the decision (1412).

## ANDREAE FRICII Modreuj Commentariorum de Republica emendan da Libri quinque: Quorum

PRIMVS, DE MORIBVS.  
SECVNDVS, DE LEGIBVS.  
TERTIVS, DE BELLO.  
QVARTVS, DE ECCLESIA.  
QVINTVS, DE SCHOLA.

AD REGEM, SENATVM, PONTIFICES,  
Presbyteros, Equites, populumq; Poloniae,  
ac reliqua Sarmaticae.



Cum gratia & privilegio ad quin-  
quennium.

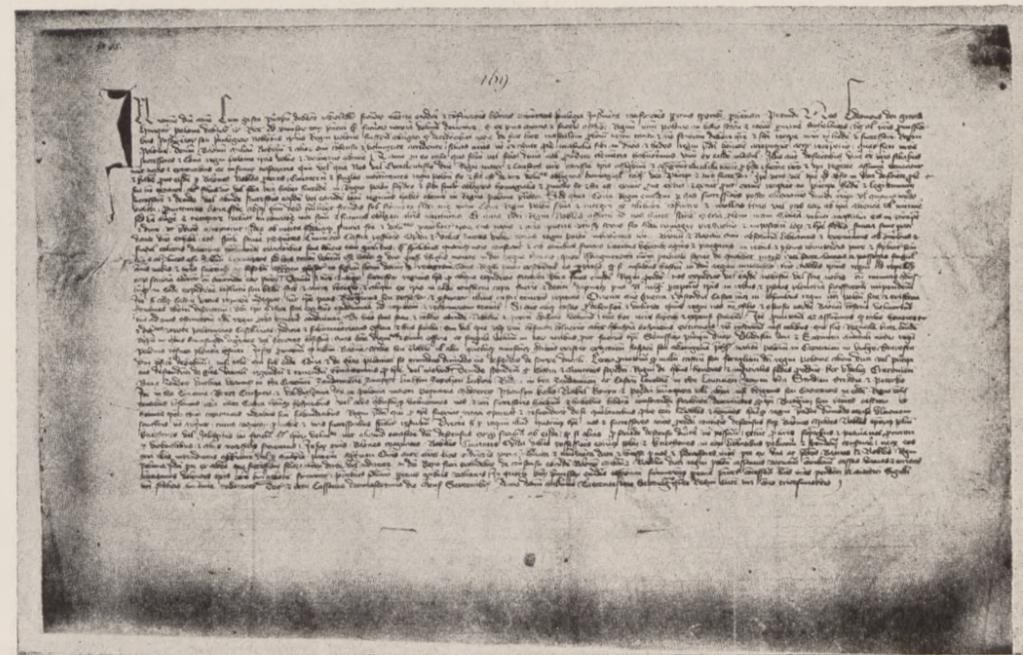
BASELAE, PER IOAN-  
nem Oporinum.

De Republica Emendanda (On the Improvement of the Republic) by Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski, 1554.

refused to comply with the award. And now a forerunner of *collective security* to deter the aggressor: ". . . Our borders should be provided with soldiers . . . that may serve to frighten away aggressors. . . It is an old saying that opportunity makes the thief . . ."

Poland's great spiritual revival in the 16th century was influenced not only by the ancient literature of Greece and Rome, but even more the writings of the Fathers in Latin and Greek and by the Old and New Testaments then made accessible in Polish. Here was a fountain of new humanitarian learning and of ideals of Peace for Catholics and Protestants alike. The works and preaching of Piotr Skarga, the great Jesuit orator and writer of the 16th and 17th century show that he continued the traditions of Pawel Wlodkowicz. In his "Teachings and Services for Soldiers" there is no word of the story of war, no trace of martial spirit, no vestige of incitement to hate one's enemy. Nothing but the unequivocal assertion that arms are to be taken up only in a righteous cause, "for the defense of men, for the preserving of peace and of divine rights." Skarga taught that war is a terrible, detestable thing, and he urged that all other means be first tried to achieve concord before, as he says, "to such a cruel remedy you should resort. Peace is always better and only in peace all good things flourish."

The "greatest Peace movement in Poland's history" has been called Arian. (Please turn to page 15)



The Pact of Koszyce (1374) by which the King of Poland gave up his right to levy taxes.

# SIXTEEN MEN OF A POLISH TRAINING FLIGHT

by MIECZYSLAW PRUSZYNSKI

**D**URING the Battle of Britain in 1940 the Polish Air Force destroyed 195 German planes, which was more than 10 per cent of the total brought down by British fliers. Three years later, during the Battle of Tunisia, Polish airmen brought down 79 enemy planes as compared with 527 downed by the British and American Air Force. How is it that a nation, shackled by their ruthless oppressors, can produce an airforce of strategic importance four years after the occupation of its country? Are Polish airmen never killed in action?

When in the Spring of 1943 I volunteered for the Polish Air Force and came to England, I found myself in a small town on the west coast, from the very beginning a Polish Air Force depot. An elderly English lady invited me to her home. On the mantelpiece and on the piano in her living room I saw about a dozen photographs of young men in Polish pilot's uniforms. While showing me the pictures, she was telling me about each young man in turn.

"This is Janek—he was one of the first boys that were lost. This is Kazik—he, too, was killed during the Battle of Britain. This is Mietek, he never returned from his Hamburg expedition,—here is Wladek, he had been rescued once from the North Sea, but, later on was killed over Berlin." And so on . . . followed names and dates of the pilots' deaths. Among the young pilots, I saw the picture of Prime Minister Sikorski, commander in chief of these boys. We never realized at that time, that he too would meet an airman's death a few months later.

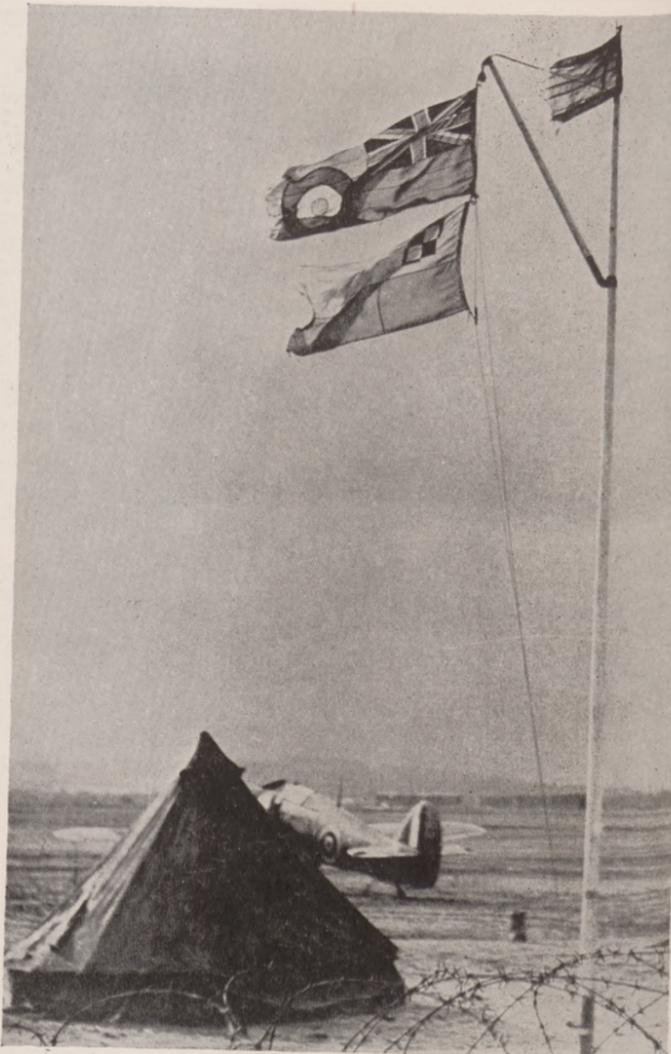
"It was in the living room of this English family that I understood the source of the British-Polish friendship which has spread over the British Isles during the second world war. Of the Polish air-force, who started their first fight on September 1, 1939, 80 per cent have been lost, while only a few of the fliers, who took part in the Battle of Britain are alive today. One wonders how the gaps in the Polish Air Force are filled.

Let me introduce my sixteen companions from the Initial Training Flight to which I was assigned as candidate, upon my arrival in England a few months ago. Their story will show you how they joined the Polish Air Force.

The "flight" was a refresher course for air force officers who had lately arrived in England, and an initial training course for officers transferred to the Air Force from the Army. The senior pupil of our class was Captain E. Prusiecki. As every one of us seventeen, he had taken part in the campaign in Poland in September and October 1939. In France in May 1940 when the German offensive started, he received a supply of Glen Martin Aircraft and proceeded with the formation of a squadron. It was too late. After the armistice he left Bordeaux for Africa by air. The crew was overtaken by storm during their flight over the Mediterranean, one of the motors gave way, so they were forced to land in neutral Spain and go back to France.

After half a year's stay in Vichy's various internment camps, Captain Prusiecki with some Polish and Dutch fliers escaped from France concealed on the lower deck of a merchant ship. Arrested and put into prison in Oran they were interned in a camp 100 miles South of Oran. Within a short time about 300 Polish soldiers, escaping from France through Africa to Britain, found themselves in the camp. A secret Polish organization started to plan the escape.

Half a year later individual groups of runaways proceeded by separate routes to a place on the Mediterranean where a ship from Gibraltar was expected to take them. The ship was late. The boys concealed in the bush, saw figures of men crossing the field, they heard the barking of dogs. Was



Flagpole of Polish air squadron.

that pursuit? No, this proved to be St. Hubert's day, when huntsmen were out hunting. The dogs, however, behaved in a queer manner; instead of trailing rabbits, they rushed into the bush and trailed men. The huntsmen stopped their hunt, notified the authorities, soon the Oran garrison was aroused and Polish boys caught.

This time they were sent to a camp on the borders of the Sahara, where there was no hope of escape. They were freed a year later, when American and British forces landed in Africa.

Pilot-officer St. Wujastyk, 27, a regular officer of the Polish Air Force, was interned together with Captain Prusiecki, and now was a member of our Training Squadron.

Lieutenant Z. Szwarnowiecki, 26, as an army officer took part in the campaign in Norway and during 1940 and 1941 tried unsuccessfully to escape from France. In 1942 a Polish Navy Officer organized, with the aid of a small cutter and four sailors, a regular secret communication line between Cassis, near Marseilles, and Gibraltar. Twice a month, the cutter used to stop at the French coast at night, about 80 Polish soldiers would be loaded on it, whereupon it would sail away rapidly. Alas, this time two nights passed without a trace of the cutter. On the third day the well-known uniforms of Vichy gendarmes emerged from behind the hill, the boys ran for their lives, gendarmes opened rifle fire, caught

about a fourth of them, the rest escaped to Marseilles. Two days later they again were awaiting the cutter. This time it arrived as per schedule.

The next morning, whilst in the open sea, they noticed a fisherman's boat, tossed by the waves like a nut-shell. Five men and three women were in the boat. They were British officers and agents of the British Intelligence Service. The Gestapo was hot on their trail, so they had embarked, knowing that the Polish cutter was expected to pass that way. The women were French. They were half-dead with sea-sickness. The situation aboard the cutter was not much better. One of the girls repeatedly asked Szwarnowiecki, if the ship was going to sink. He replied that he didn't know. On the fourth day they were spotted by a pilot from Gibraltar. He summoned a British destroyer and the people were saved.

Mr. B. Korna, 31, a chemistry engineer in civilian life, as a reserve officer of the infantry fought with Polish Highland Brigade in Norway, was afterwards interned in France. Mr. A. Zagorski, 36, a constructor of planes and amateur flier before the war, took part in the campaign in France, and afterwards was interned in Switzerland with the Polish 2nd Division. They had plenty of luck and both managed to escape through France, Spain and Portugal to United Kingdom.

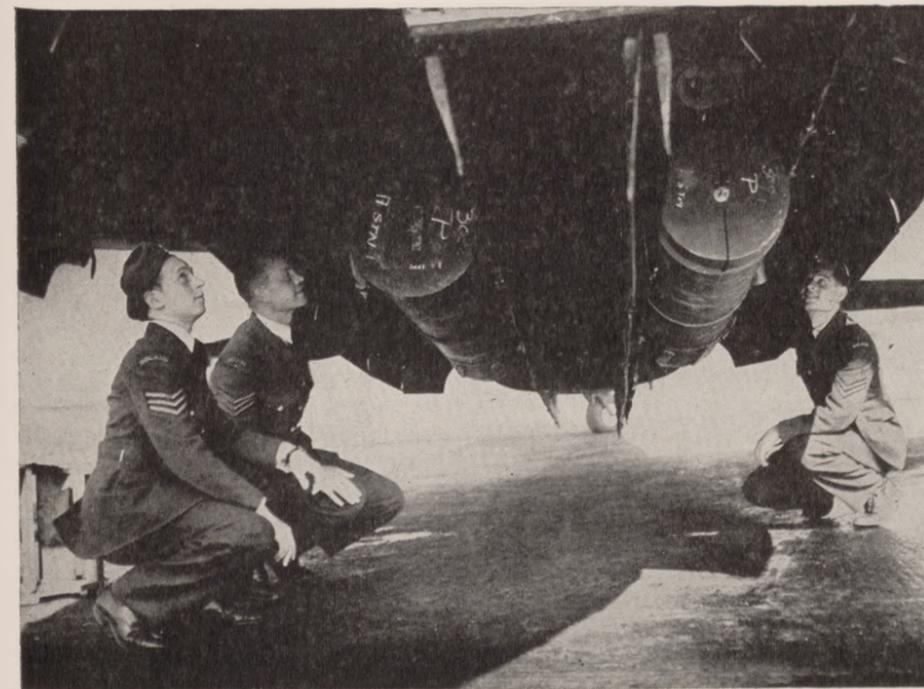
Mr. J. Abczynski, 30, before the war a well-to-do civil engineer, after the collapse of France made his way to Great Britain through . . . Italy. "I shall take the Simplon Express



Polish RAF officer decorated by President Raczewicz.

to Turkey, and after going round the Cape of Good Hope make my way to London," he announced to his companions in Marseilles. Everybody thought he was joking, but he was quite in earnest. While Mr. Zagorski was stealing across barbed wire to France, from Switzerland, Abczynski was crossing the same frontier in an opposite direction. For variety's sake, he covered 15 miles by boat across the Lake of Geneva. He had qualms of conscience at taking the owner's

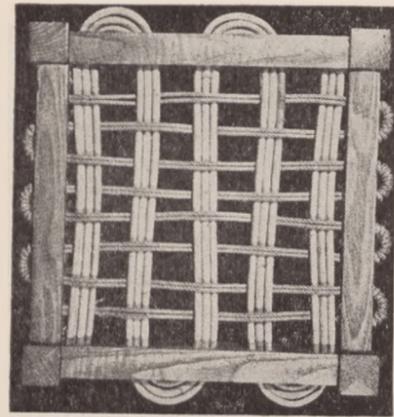
boat, without his permission. When he landed he left the owner's address at the bottom of the boat. He appeared at the Lausanne Railway station just before the departure of the Simplon Express, clad in mechanic's overall, with a lubricating can in his hand. Looking self-assured, he crept under the car, seemingly to lubricate the wheels. From his experience as an engineer, he knew, that there is a sort of shelf over the Pullman brakes where a man could manage somehow to lie down. The train started. The foreseeing engineer wore glasses to protect his eyes from the dust, and placed cotton pads in his ears so as to shut out the dreadful noise. However he did not foresee one detail: when the train moved, the dynamo belt started to beat upon his seat. He almost lost his balance. With great difficulty he reached the next station with his legs hanging down. There he changed to a little more comfortable place. At the Italian frontier he saw in darkness the eyes of an Italian gendarme inspecting under the car. Travelling in this way Abczynski crossed the Alps, Italy and 15 hours later emerged from under the car at the Yugo-Slav frontier



A load of deadly cargo ready to destroy German shipping. The ground crew is giving the mines a final once-over to make sure they are secure in the racks before this giant bomber leaves on a night expedition to lay mines in enemy waters.

# POLISH CABINET MAKERS INSPIRED BY NATIVE ART

by DR. IRENE MOTROWSKA



Rope-seat for a Chair. Designed by Wladyslaw Wolkowski.

As other Polish arts and crafts so also Polish cabinet-making has in the course of time been strengthened, rejuvenated and inspired by the simple and unsophisticated folk art. It is true that the main currents of Polish cabinet-making developed in cities where cabinet-makers were organized in guilds and kept in touch with the latest styles of cabinet-making abroad. Such a guild was formed in 1419 as

an independent fraternity in Cracow, but even before that it had existed as part of the varnishers' guild. Protected by cabinet-makers' statutes and in order to keep the standard of the craft at the highest possible level, the city guilds took great care to keep all cabinet-making in their own hands. However, they could not prevent peasant artisans from making pieces of furniture for country mansions or bringing in from their villages ready made stools, tables, chests or cradles that they peddled from house to house. Nor could the guild masters avoid submitting unconsciously to the influence of Polish folk furniture. With some exceptions, the

influx of peasant made furniture seems to have been strongest in Cracow, which lies so close to the Tatra Mountains, whose native highlanders have always had a special gift for carving and joining.

Until the 18th century, everyday Polish furniture, made with loving care by the hands of craftsmen, was distinguished by great simplicity. Only pieces made for churches, wealthy homes and palaces were beautified by elaborate carving. A picturesque note was added to Polish interiors by covering the furniture, especially benches and the numerous chests for storing clothes and family treasures with tapestries, produced in Poland or imported from abroad,

especially from the near East. Even the peasants used colorful handmade fabrics to enrich their homes. These Polish kilims, the oldest of which date from the 17th century, attained to great beauty. Benches and chests went gradually out of use during the 18th century to be replaced by chairs and wardrobes, but they survived in the villages until very recently, and in certain regions were decorated with carvings but more often were beautifully painted with flower motifs.

During the 18th century, it became difficult to obtain tapestries from the Near East and this was responsible for a new trend in Polish cabinet-work. The cabinet-makers had to devote more attention to the quality and color of the wood, and to the ornamentations of large, smooth surfaces, to take the place of the tapestries, now so hard to get. No wonder, then, that veneering and rich inlays with wood of various colors became an outstanding characteristic of Polish 18th-century furniture; no wonder that the floral motifs of these inlaid decorations were inspired by those found on the peasant's woven kilims and painted chests.

While many Polish cities and towns produced veneered and inlaid cabinet-pieces in the 18th century, the most famous and popular were those created at Kolbuszowa, a small town situated amidst woods abounding in fine varieties of trees; in Southern Poland, about midway between Cracow and Lwow.

While the cabinet-makers of Kolbuszowa were townspeople, organized into some kind of fraternity, their contact with the neighboring villages was very close, and it is probable



An Ambassador's Study. Designed by Jan Boguslawski for the New York World's Fair 1939-1940.

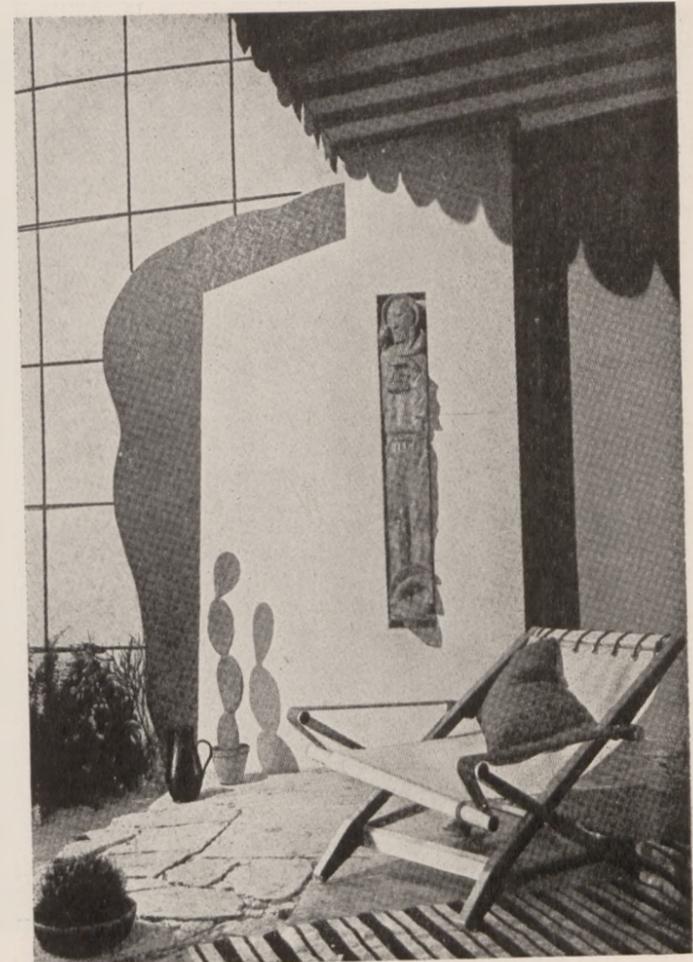
in spite of strong French and still stronger Viennese influences—it never can be mistaken for foreign work.

The Kolbuszowa cabinet-makers gave preference to pieces of furniture that offered large surfaces for veneering and inlay decoration, and specialized in producing bureaus, dressers, secretaries, treasure-boxes and large and small tables; made out of pine wood, fir, larch or sometimes oak, veneered with strips of walnut or rosewood or inlaid with woods of many colors, walnut, black oak, yew, ash and elm, and even cherry, plum and pear. The most frequent patterns were geometrical and ribbon motifs, but of greatest interest are the floral motifs, the favorite decorative designs of all Polish peasant art. These Kolbuszowa inlay decorations vividly remind one of the floral motifs woven into the famous Polish 18th-century silk sashes worn by the Polish gentry and which themselves show traces of peasant influence. Stars also appear in the inlay work on Kolbuszowa cabinet-pieces, and occasionally coats-of-arms.

But aside of folk influences, discernable in the decorative motifs of Kolbuszowa cabinet work, the very hand of the folk craftsman can be recognized in the treatment of the legs and in many a profile and outline, which often seem to have been taken directly from the peasant's chests and benches. Most probably also collaboration with peasant artisans is responsible for the fact that

that many of the inhabitants of Kolbuszowa descended from the peasant class, as the town itself was only founded in 1700. Thus the folk element is very marked in Kolbuszowa cabinet-making. Dr. Stefan Sienicki wrote an enlightening and well illustrated book on Kolbuszowa furniture. It was published in 1936 by the Department of Architecture at the Warsaw Polytechnic.

Cabinet-making in Kolbuszowa reached its artistic zenith during the latter half of the 18th century, but produced beautiful pieces of furniture both before and after that period. Its evolution coincided with the late Baroque, Rococo, and classic styles, but because of its distinctive native stamp

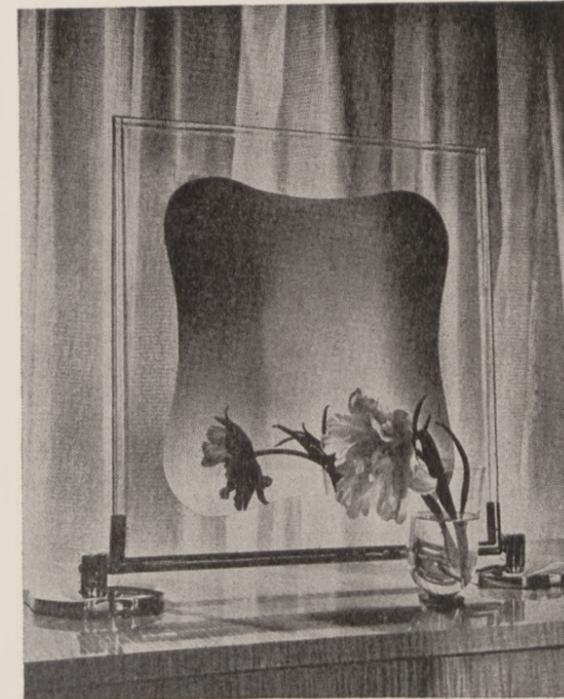


Terrace fragment designed by Wlodzimierz Padlewski.

Kolbuszowa cabinet-makers used metal decorations very sparingly, confining them to indispensable metal hinges and handles, although metal decorations were much in fashion in 18th-century Western European furniture. Furniture making was part of wood carving for the folk artist, who loved his medium and purposely rejected any material foreign to it. The Kolbuszowa cabinet-makers seem to have taken over this attitude from the peasant wood carvers.

By the middle of the 19th century Kolbuszowa furniture, like that of the rest of Poland, and indeed of Europe in general, was ruined by cheaper machine-made products. Cabinet-making ceased to be a craft. But several decades later, the "rediscovery" of peasant arts and crafts came to the rescue, a momentous event that precipitated the renaissance of Polish cabinet-making. It is interesting to note that while in past centuries folk influences seldom

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Mirror. Designed by Jan Boguslawski.

Fragment of a Polish Interior. Designed by A. Pawlikowska.

# POLISH CABINET MAKERS INSPIRED BY NATIVE ART

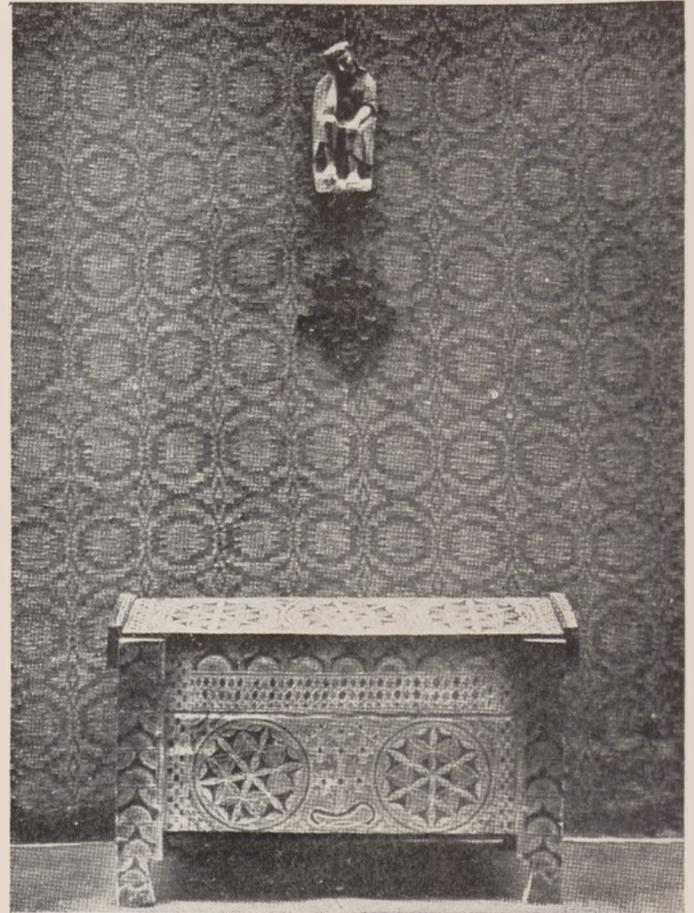
(Continued from page 9)

failed to penetrate into Polish cabinet making, this happened without the professional cabinet-makers being conscious of it, even in spite of their effort to produce work corresponding as strictly as possible to that created in other lands. The turn of the 19th century brought a decisive change in this attitude of the Polish city craftsmen. Although this change was a direct outcome of a contemporary universal trend in art, in each land, as in each particular branch of art, it took its individual course. This is how it happened in Poland in the field of cabinet-making:

The latter part of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th, was the time when after the failure of the Polish Insurrection of 1863, the persecution of Polish culture by the three foreign dominating powers reached its greatest intensity. Of all the arts, interior decoration and handicraft, safe in the seclusion of private homes, suffered least under hostile rule. On the other hand, architecture was the Polish art most handicapped in its development. So not a few Polish architects, for lack of large, official commissions, concentrated their abilities and talents on interior decoration and furnishing. They found a ready response among the Polish intellectual classes who, unable to express their patriotic sentiments in public, saw to it that the furniture in their homes was Polish in character.

To create a Polish style in interior decoration and especially in furniture, Polish artists turned for inspiration to the peasant's hut. They became conscious of the fact that peasant furniture is strictly suited to the purpose for which it is created. Benches and strong tables on wide legs are well balanced. So are the chairs. Only the chests, shelves, and cupboards have ornaments, either carved or painted, in places that do not perform any function. This wooden furniture is masterly joined, the use of nails, screws or even glue being avoided so that should the wood shrink under atmospheric conditions, the beauty, strength, and usefulness of the piece will remain unimpaired.

The charm of these simple pieces of peasant furniture will be understood by any American who is acquainted with early



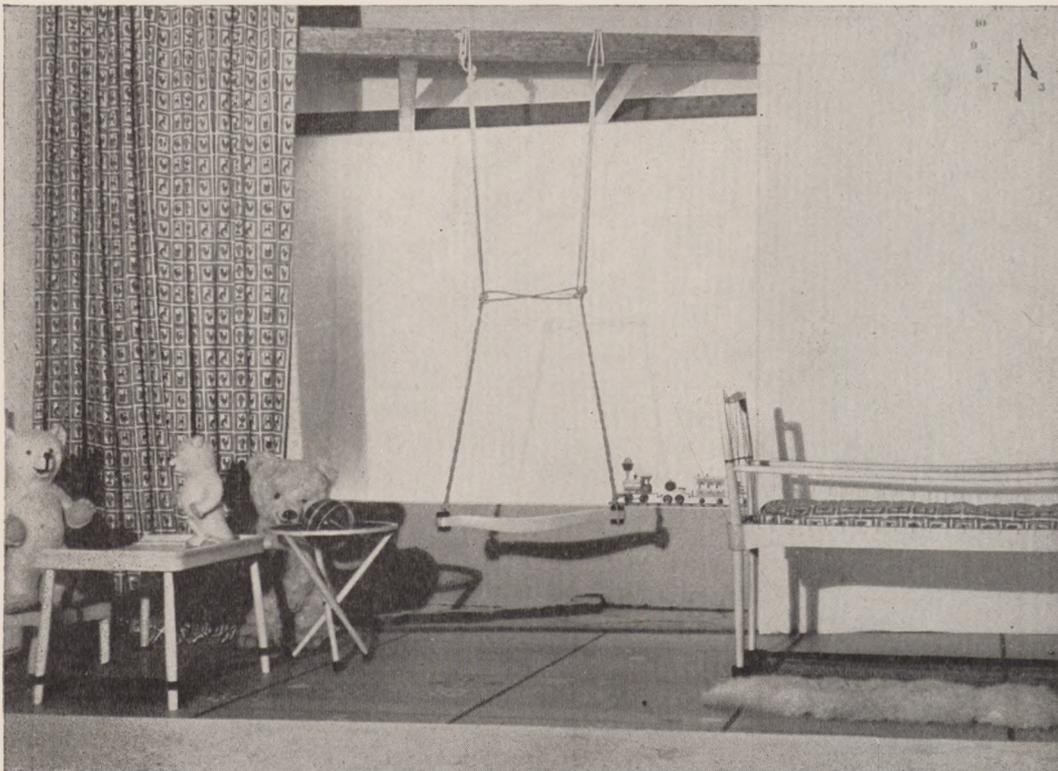
Folk Themes in a Polish Interior Decoration.  
Designed by A. Pawlikowska.

American furniture, especially the famous 18th-century Shaker pieces. The perfection of Shaker workmanship is the chief attraction of their furniture, as the Shakers scorned "beauty" in its worldly and luxury sense. They decreed that "beadings, mouldings and cornices which are merely for fancy may not be made by Believers," and that "beauty rests on utility." In this they agreed with Ruskin. And yet they created masterpieces of art. So did the Polish peasants, although they were guided more by artistic instinct than by artistic principle.

The first conscious and self-imposed contact of professional Polish artists with Polish peasant art occurred a half a century ago, when a handful of artists and writers—among whom was Stanislaw Wyspianski—"discovered" Zakopane, a village on the northern slopes of the Tatra Mountains, a center, as stated above, of Polish peasant woodcarvers and joiners.

At first modern Polish artists, captivated by the simplicity of the peasant furniture, tried to imitate it slavishly. Soon they discovered

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A Children's Room. Designed by Zofia Dziewulska for the New York World's Fair 1939-1940.

# THREE COUNTRIES DECORATED HIM FOR BRAVERY

by HALINA MAJEWSKA

**I** LAST spoke to Lieutenant Godlewski at a dinner, given by the Friends of Polish Soldiers in honor of the "Pestkas"—delegates of the Polish Women's Auxiliary Corps.

The "Pestkas" were most anxious to meet him, and it was no mere coincidence that during her after-dinner speech Capt. Grodzka turned toward Godlewski when she voiced the thanks of the Polish people to Americans for their help and friendship. Surely, Godlewski deserves that gratitude.

Lieutenant Godlewski is a young American, born and raised in Chicago. His parents came from Poland. He had not forgotten the language and traditions of his motherland, to which he is closely attached. But it would be unfair to say that it was love for Poland alone that led him to join the Polish Air Force.

As an American of Polish descent Godlewski has the spirit and ideals of those Americans that have made this country what it is and what we want it to be. A country of fair, just and upright people, who will always seek to defend the weak and the oppressed. It wouldn't be American to watch a bully mistreat a child or a cripple and not intervene. It would not have been American for Godlewski to stay at home, enjoying the comforts of peace and security, while thousands of people were suffering untold hardships.

Godlewski was only seventeen when he joined the Polish Air Force. I asked him why he did it. He must have thought the question foolish, to say the least.

"What else could I do?"—he asked. "The Germans attacked Poland . . . they began their ruthless killing, burning and plundering. Then the Poles were shut off from the world—hundreds were dying every day. We all hoped for help to come from somewhere. But just hoping doesn't do much good. If you saw a child being hurt, would you wait for someone else to help him? Well, that's how I felt about Poland. I had to do my share. I wanted to get out and fight the Germans, because they are evil. They have made millions of people suffer—not only Poles, but many, many others and I knew they would make us suffer here in America if they only could.

"I tried to join the American Forces. I tried the Army, the Marines, the Air Corps, but they all told me I was too young to be accepted."

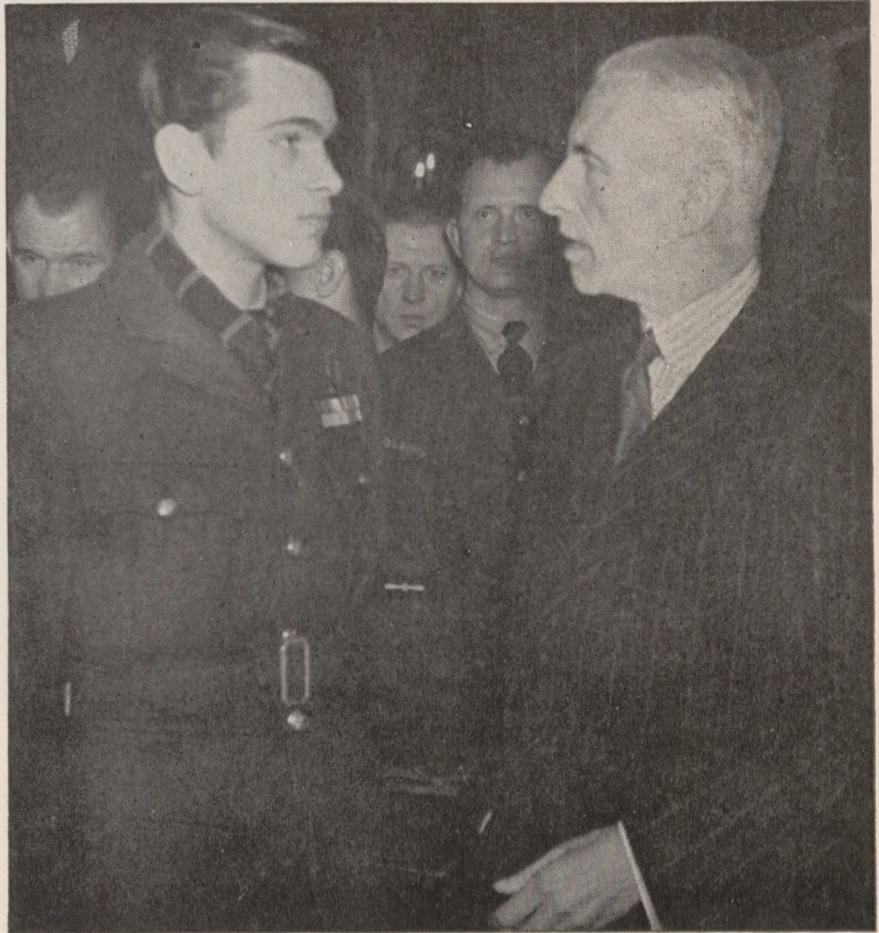
"You were young, Lieutenant; only 17."

"What difference does that make? I was old enough to know what is right and old enough to fight for it. So I joined the Polish Forces."

"Didn't your parents object? Or didn't you ask them?"

"Well, I first signed up, and then I asked. My father tried at first to convince me I should wait a year or so. But he didn't have much of an argument. Everytime he mentioned my age, I reminded him of the stories he used to tell me about the children of Lwow, who helped to defend their city though many of them were much younger than I was. Some of them were only twelve. Besides, I knew that my father would have gone too—he did in the last war—only now his health is too poor and he wasn't strong enough. I knew he'd understand and he did.

"I went to Canada and then to England for a three-month training period. I made my first flight in January, 1943—over Lorient. Then I took part in raids over St. Nazaire, Hamburg, Cologne, Bremen and Essen. I did eleven flights in all."



Polish President Raczewicz converses with Lt. Godlewski.

"Weren't you afraid at first?"

"Oh, I don't know—there wasn't much time for that. We were all a little nervous and excited. You never can tell whether you'll be coming back, you know, but we didn't give much thought to that angle of it. All of us wanted to get out and fight and get rid of as many Germans as possible and as fast as we could. We wanted to do everything to make the war end sooner, so that we could all come home again."

One of the Pestkas broke in—"So you did want to come home again?"

"Of course, everybody does."

"But you didn't have to join the Army—you went of your own accord, didn't you?"

"Yes, of course. We are volunteers."

"Then you understand."

"Yes, perfectly."

Lieutenant Godlewski went on to tell us of his last flight.

"It was over Essen—my eleventh and last flight. I was the tail gunner, with a Polish bomber crew. We were returning from the raid, when nine enemy fighters attacked us. We found ourselves in a hail of fire and machine gun bullets. I remember bringing down three German planes and damaging others. I was wounded. We got through all right and made the base. Our plane was damaged and it crashed while landing. Luckily we all came out of it alive. I was taken to hospital. Both my arms were amputated. I spent seven months there."

"You were decorated, weren't you?"—the youngest "Pestka" asked.

"Yes, I received the Polish Virtuti Militari and the British and American Crosses."

# POLES WIN THE BATTLE OF PIEDIMONTE

**F**OLLOWING their capture of Cassino on May 18th, the Polish Second Corps took Piedimonte six days later. This is a strong point on the Via Casilina, the main road to Rome. The Poles, in conjunction with Eighth Army troops also took Mount Cairo. Rome now lies just beyond the most difficult sector of the front, where the British Eighth Army along with the Polish Second Corps is fighting. Since both the Gustav and Hitler Lines have been pierced, the enemy has but one line on which they can stand before the Eternal City, the so-called Rome Line, running from the Apennine range, through the Alban Hills to the coast near Aprilia, some distance north of the former Anzio beachhead. This line of last-ditch German defense runs barely 18 miles from the Italian capital.

Piedimonte, a small mountain town located at the northern end of the Hitler line, was defended by German parachute units which had been beaten back from Monte Cassino. They were supported by strong units of German tanks. The Poles had to fight their way in street by street. Simultaneously an attack was made to the north of the town on Santa Lucia.

Who holds Piedimonte controls the Via Casilina, main escape route left to the eight German divisions in the mountains south of Rome. Because of its commanding position, the Germans were able to defend Piedimonte long and bitterly. It is built on terraces cut in the steep mountainside, that are natural anti-tank traps. The



O.W.I. Radiophoto, Press Association, Inc.

General Sir Harold Alexander (left), Allied Commander in Italy, and Lt. Gen. Wladyslaw Anders, Commander of Polish troops in Italy, salute the Polish colors after Gen. Alexander had conferred the Order of the Bath on the Polish General in recognition of the Polish Army's victories in Italy.

enemy also had built heavily fortified pillboxes along these mountain slope ledges. When Polish tanks could no longer advance, Polish infantry went ahead to wipe out pillboxes with hand grenades and bayonets. Some of the tank crews joined them. Others remained in their tanks using them as stationary fire towers until their ammunition was exhausted. The Germans had prepared the defenses of the town carefully. Every entrance was covered by tanks and fortified concrete shelters as well as by machine-guns and improvised pillboxes. Together these fortifications formed an almost impassable wall of fire.

By May 22nd, the Poles had advanced to within a few hundred yards of the village, and were slowly battering down the enemy's defenses when the most critical moment of battle came. The Germans counterattacked at midnight. Until dawn the issue was in doubt. Striking from the central and eastern part of the village, the Germans almost succeeded in throwing back the Polish lines, but in the end, the attack was turned by the superior fire power of the Poles.

The bitterness of this battle equalled that of the earlier fight for Cassino and Monastery Hill. Best evidence of the desperate struggle waged between these mortal enemies was the battlefield after the Poles had swept forward. Face downward beside their smashed pillboxes, German riflemen of special detachments trained for street fighting, lay blasted by Polish grenades. German Mark IV tanks stood blackened and burned out by Polish artillery fire. Piles of rubble from the bombed and shelled buildings became last ditch defense posts

of the enemy. Any upper floors left in the battered buildings were turned into observation posts and machine gun nests.

Every house had to be searched. Any door left closed was battered in with Polish rifle butts. The Poles, mindful of the tricks used by their implacable and crafty enemy, took no chances of walking into booby-traps or hidden snipers.

During the battle for Piedimonte, the commanding officer of the Wilenska Brigade, Colonel Wicenty Kurek, was killed by a German shell while leading his Polish troops advancing along difficult terrain on Mount San Angelo. He commanded the 26th Kaniowski Regiment during the 1939 Campaign in Poland, and was taken prisoner by the Germans. Escaping to Hungary, he rejoined the Polish forces in France, and succeeded in escaping with his men to England in June, 1940. He was subsequently appointed Chief of Polish Infantry Training in the British Isles. In July 1943, he was assigned to the Middle East where he remained until he received his last command in September.

Following the battle, General Sir Maitland Wilson, commander-in-chief of the Central Mediterranean forces, accompanied by General Jacob L. Devers of the United States Army, visited the headquarters of General Wladyslaw Anders. General Wilson told the Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Second Corps: "I came here to congratulate you cordially on your great victory and the success of the Polish Second Corps." On May 25, 1944, General Sir Harold Alexander decorated General Wladyslaw Anders with the Order of the Bath. The ceremony took place near the Field Headquarters of the Commander of the Corps. Soldiers bearing the colors of the Kresowa and Carpathian Divisions as well as a guard of honor composed of representatives of all battalions of both divisions was present. A platoon of British Armored Tanks also formed a guard of honor.

Alexander, on pinning the Order on General Anders, declared that His Majesty King George VI was decorating General Anders with the Order of the Bath for his excellent leadership and as a sign of recognition of the wonderful courage, sacrifice, and devotion of the Polish soldiers in the Battle of Cassino.

General Alexander said it was a great day of glory for Poland when they conquered the monastery which the Germans considered impregnable. It was the first great battle for Fortress Europe and it was not only a splendid beginning but also an indication for the future. General Alexander said also that if he had to choose which soldiers he would like under his command, he could openly and frankly say to the Polish Corps that he would choose them, the Poles.

## WOMEN'S FRONT IN POLAND

(Continued from page 3)

women excel. Another, equally important, is the care and education of Polish children, particularly of war orphans, who are barred from the German-controlled schools, and who are innocent victims of the barbarous attempt to exterminate by starvation this unconquerable nation.

Polish women hide in their homes fugitives from German "justice," well knowing the penalty if caught. Not only do they take a large part in the Underground press, but also publish two secret periodicals especially for women, ZYWIA and BIEDRONKA. These are designed to coordinate the women's "front," to distribute news of interest, and most of

## SONG OF CASSINO

*What gold could not crumble,  
What steel could not destroy;  
What made the mighty fumble  
(And feed the foemen's joy!)  
The Poles, with pride unbroken  
Through spirit overcame;  
Their fiery faith the token  
Of Poland's heart of flame!*

*The boastful nations battered  
With all their flaunted might  
Against a foe unshattered  
Whilst shameful weeks took flight;  
Against the fort they flooded,  
Man's greatest glut of power;  
By victories unstudded  
Slow-sulked each beaten hour!*

*Then from defeat ascended  
The flag by fate foresworn;  
At last! The stout-defended  
Are surged and overborne!  
Its love triumphant streaming,  
The Polish Eagle leads!  
Enkindled plumage gleaming,  
With resurrected deeds!*

*Be blind, O World, no longer!  
Salute the spirit's might!  
Behold which shows the stronger  
Of swords unsheathed in fight;  
The sword by gold begotten,  
And shaped by hands of greed,  
Or steel which cannot rotten,  
Sprung from the spirit's need.*

*Sweep on, O Poles, forever!  
Thy steel shaped from the soul!  
(No treacheries can sever  
What centuries extoll!  
No mortal cunning slays Thee,  
Whilst bent beneath its rod;  
What if no man repays Thee?)  
For Poland and for God!*

—Fidele di Castellani.



Polish tanks enter Italian village.

# SIXTEEN MEN OF A POLISH TRAINING FLIGHT

(Continued from page 7)

half dead with fatigue. The Yugo-Slav guard ran away at the sight of him and no wonder, for our engineer was all covered with a thick layer of mud and gravel. Through Greece, Turkey, Middle East and South Africa he made his way to the Polish Air Force Station in England.

Mr. M. Sawicki, 26, and Mr. A. Lipinski, 23, after having taken part in the campaign in Poland, remained in occupied Warsaw. The first one worked as an ordinary mechanic in a plant repairing German war equipment, organized sabotage, and to escape death punishment had to flee. After months of tramping over Balkan mountains and crossing rivers, he found himself in Libya. There he could make good use of his experience gained at the German plant: in Libya the Polish Brigade captured quite a lot of German trucks and tanks, which required a skilled mechanic for repair work. Sawicki excelled in this line and was instructing not only Poles but British and Australians too. After the Battle of El Gazala he was decorated for gallantry.

Lt. Lipinski several times tried to escape from occupied Poland, but unsuccessfully. So he settled down, and organized a factory making coffee from rye. Business was running fairly well, but he tried to escape once more, this time was lucky to reach the Polish Brigade in Libya just before it went to Tobruk. In the desert as commander of a platoon of field artillery he was doing a good job, was decorated for gallantry, but always told his friend, that to run a factory was a much more difficult job than to fire on the enemy. After the African campaign he volunteered, as well as Lt. Sawicki and the author of this article, for the air force, and went to Britain.

Captain Rybicki, 39, took part in the defence of Warsaw. On the eve of the capital's surrender when there were only two planes left, Colonel Izycki (now commander of the Polish Air Force) took one and Captain Rybicki got hold of the other, to fly for Hungary. They had to start from the airfield which was lined on one side with Polish trenches and had German fortifications on the other. Colonel Izycki landed safely in Budapest. Rybicki was not so lucky. A German bullet pierced his gasoline tank when taking off. He was attacked next by anti-aircraft fire of Russian troops, which just entered Eastern Poland. He would have escaped but he ran short of gasoline, a few miles before reaching the Roumanian frontier. The Russian troops arrested him. He spent 18 months in five Russian prisons. The Russian authorities finally suggested that he join the Soviet Air Force with the rank of major. The captain refused. He was sentenced to 8 years' hard labor and deported somewhere in the Arctic circle. In June 1941 he escaped, hoping to reach the South across the tundra plains, was caught, sentenced to death, but just in time the Germans attacked Russia, the Polish Government made an agreement with Stalin, and Rybicki was given life and freedom.

Captain Omylak, 37, a regular officer, bombed German motorized troops entering Poland in 1939, and when Russian troops entered Poland from the East, was taken war prisoner. The story was the same with the other three boys: Piekarski, 34, Horbik, 33, and Groszek, 26. They were arrested by Russian authorities, sentenced to five or six years hard labor and sent to Asiatic Russia.

Two other of my friends: Salmonowicz, 28, and Wilczewski, 23, took part in the defence of Warsaw, spent a few months under the German occupation, decided to join the Polish army then in France. But they made the mistake and chose the way through Eastern Poland then occupied by Russians, were arrested by them, sentenced to hard labor, sent to the Arctic circle. Only after the Polish-Russian agree-

ment of 1941 they got freedom and a possibility to join the Polish Air Force in Britain. They all had to travel across Persia, Irak, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, around South Africa, a few of them even had to visit Buenos Aires.

Wilczewski was appointed member of a Polish convoy which took German prisoners from El Alamein to Britain. Among the prisoners was the German General Kruevell. Though he was travelling in the same cabin in which the King of Greece had travelled half a year before, he protested to the British troop commander, that Polish soldiers were mounting the guard. A few days before their arrival in England, the troop commander of the ship summoned the Polish convoy commander and announced:

"I have learned that Norwegian sailors on board our ship intend to throw the German general and his adjutant into the sea. It will be necessary to reinforce the guards at the General's cabin." So far there was only one sentinel on guard, then a British armed gendarme was added. Furthermore a patrol of two men was stationed in the corridor. The General grew alarmed seeing these precautions. During his walk on deck he asked the British commander for an explanation. The latter pointed to the sea and said: "There are two big fishes swimming there. One of them wants to devour you and the other looks for your adjutant."

The general lost his spirits. The adjutant laughed and said: "Undoubtedly the Poles want to do some harm to us." "On the contrary," replied the British commander, "there are representatives of another Allied nation who have evil intentions, and the Poles were ordered to defend you."

But pilot-officer Groszek had the worst luck. On his way from Russia to England his ship was torpedoed in the middle of the Atlantic on September 12, 1942. She sank within 40 minutes. Of the 4,000 passengers, chiefly Italian prisoners, only 900 were saved. One of the lifeboats filled with women and children, dropped into the sea. Not a single soul was saved. The next day, at dawn, sitting in the lifeboat, Groszek saw the well-known figure of Mr. Churchill going across the waves with a cigar in his mouth, and shouting: "How are you boys?" Groszek thought that after 6 hours spent in the water he was dreaming. It was the joke of a German submarine, which just emerged, and showed a natural size Mr. Churchill's picture. Afterwards Groszek was rescued by a Vichy ship and interned in Casablanca. A few months later he aided Americans landing near Casablanca, and with French underground arrested several German agents.

The last of our Training Squadron was flying-officer Brzezinski, 25, before the war a student at Polytechnic. As an air-gunner he made his first round of bomber raids over Germany—30 flights altogether. One day his Wellington returned with a half-burned hull. Nearly all London papers printed photographs of the wreck. Brzezinski was undergoing training in our school, starting from the bottom to become a pilot.

This is the brief story of the men of one Polish Training Flight. Every one of these men has visited during this war an average of 16 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, and speaks a little of seven languages. These boys were kept in 66 prisons and concentration camps, got a total of sentences for 39 years imprisonment, a few death sentences too, and 13 decorations for bravery in the field. These 20, 30 and 40 year old men, some regular officers before the war, some students, technicians, clerks, have one thing in common: they are citizens of the same nation, and soldiers of the same Polish army which has been fighting for four and a half years on land, at sea and in the air, in an effort to conquer the oppressors of their people and to uphold the ideals held by the greater part of mankind. And they do not fight for just half of Poland but for the whole of their country.

# LOVE OF PEACE—AN AGE-OLD POLISH TRADITION

(Continued from page 5)

ism. Like Protestantism it was opposed to the Church of Rome, but it contained the element of rational argument and finally assumed a social-political character as its basic doctrine condemned bloodshed of every kind. At the same time the Arians rejected war, capital punishment and all kind of torture. Their rational views and peaceful ideas, explains the fact that the great Dutch statesman, lawyer and theologian Hugo Grotius, the father of international law, was influenced by their ideas. Some of the Polish Arians, rid themselves of their estates to avoid military service. That meant giving up their position as gentry: complete social ostracism and degradation. Most of them wore wooden sabres to show their aversion to war. The green coats, or *kurpienniki*, of those weaponless people covered the most merciful and warmest of Polish hearts. Their small clubs in Lublin, Rakow and Luclawice discussed ideals that are universally accepted in our days. They condemned slavery of the peasants, long before emancipation, they abhorred war long before the great peace movements. One of their principles was that evil should be borne and opposed only by good. There were several divisions among the Arians. The moderates, represented by Jacob Paleologue, a Greek who settled in Poland, drew a distinction between "wicked" war and "tolerable" war. The latter was approved and exception made from their basic dogma "Thou shalt not kill" when really great things like faith and liberty were at stake. Even domestic wars were condoned in such a case! The radicals like Faustus Socinus and Szymon Budny, condemned war unconditionally and with it all authorities who ordered bloodshed. The Polish Arians or Socinians—as they were called—were finally overcome during the Counter-Reformation, but the principles they had upheld such as the prohibition of any use and even possession of arms survived them.

In these circumstances it is not surprising that two of Poland's greatest warriors were strongly opposed to war, Jan Zamojski, one of Poland's greatest statesmen and generals, called the *Tribunus Populi* of Poland's gentry, said bluntly: "Those who attack foreign countries are destroyers of the world and enemies of the human race." Another Polish war leader of the 16th century, Hetman Jan Tarnowski said: "An offensive war is contrary to human reason and a sin against God."

In his work, "*De Legato et Legatione*," Krzysztof Warszewicki, author of the first Polish manual of diplomacy in the 16th century, gives an unusual conception of the role of the diplomat as a missionary working for peace:

"Who will be more needed or more cherished than a man who knocks the weapon out of your hand by means of words, who like Gabriel the Archangel bringing a message of peace is not feared because of his armor but because he is armed by the law of the nations? . . ."

The galaxy of prominent Poles who have preferred peace to war, is unending. Here is a last quotation from the works of A. M. Fredro, a typical Polish nobleman of the 17th century. His peaceful ideals are clearly underlined in the words: "We wish peace with all nations."

Looking back at three centuries of Polish history, certain permanent features of foreign policy and constitutional structure, emphasize Poland's negative attitude towards war: 1) The Polish Republic grew by alliances, treaties and marriages, not by military victories and conquests. 2) Poland had a deep respect for treaties and international agreements. So the danger of arbitrary or offensive war was greatly eliminated. 3) Tolerance in religious matters contributed to avoid religious wars. 4) The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was an eminently peaceful organization. 5) Poland favored arbitration in disputes with foreign countries as another method to avert military conflict.

## POLISH CABINET MAKERS INSPIRED BY NATIVE ART

(Continued from page 10)

that peasant furniture, no matter how beautiful, was too angular and rigid to be introduced to modern city interiors.

Yet peasant furniture taught the professional artists many a needful lesson. First of all it induced Polish artists to reject eclectic imitation of the "period" styles of bygone centuries and to create tables, chairs, chests, cupboards, couches, writing desks, and so on, discarding unnecessary and superabundant ornamentation to emphasize the beauty of the wood itself. The artists learned how to bring out to best advantage the different natural shades and veins of Poland's many kinds of wood. And wood was Poland's pride prior to the German devastation of her well-kept forests. Modern Polish cabinet-makers favored above all the maple, light walnut, common oak, and black oak.

The experiments that Polish artists conducted with furniture before arriving at satisfactory results, lasted much longer than in any other domain of Polish arts and crafts. The desired effect was attained only shortly before the outbreak of the present war—but the result proved that the effort was worth while.

When Poland regained her political liberty twenty-six years ago, some of the Polish crafts, for instance, the weaving of kilims, had their Polish style fully developed and thus changed but little during the years of Poland's independence. It was different with furniture, which underwent fundamental changes during that time. At the beginning of that period—as evinced by numerous pieces of furniture designed by Jozef Czajkowski, Wojciech Jastrzebowski, now in London, Karol Stryjenski, and others for the famous Paris International Exhibition of Arts and Crafts in 1925—strict adher-

ence to wood and to authentic folk motifs was the chief concern of Polish cabinet-makers. As time went on a tendency evolved to adapt furniture not only to the material used, but also the shape of the human body. This resulted in fluent and soft lines as shown by graceful specimens at the New York World's Fair, designed by Jan Boguslawski, Barbara Brukalska, Stanislaw Dziewulski and Zofia Dziewulska. The many handsome pieces of Polish furniture created during the last few years of Poland's independence, harmoniously blended Polish native taste with modernistic trends of present-day art, and even with those of past centuries.

Modern Polish furniture was designed mostly by architects for reasons explained above. After Poland regained her political freedom, architects were no longer unemployed—yet their interest in furniture remained, and many of them became leaders in this field of Polish arts and crafts. This probably was a transitional phase, influenced by the particular circumstances existing in Poland. After some time, if the evolution of modern furniture had not been abruptly halted by the German invasion, furniture designing would no doubt have returned sooner or later to the hands of joiners.

In modern Polish interiors furniture of rather simple though graceful lines is supplemented by beautiful rugs and carpets, modern or ancient, peasant woven or executed by professional artists. They hang on walls, cover couches, lie on floors. They are also used as upholstery. These fabrics play the same part in modern Polish homes as do the colorful peasant weavings in huts, and as the kilims and tapestries played in the Polish manor houses of old. They add color and warmth to the interior and create the home-like atmosphere.

# **POLAND!**

***FIRST TO FIGHT!***

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The Battle of Europe has begun, and the Liberation of Poland is now assured!

This is the crucial time for Poles to buy War Bonds!

Poles in America, head the lists of buyers of War Bonds!

In this Hour of Supreme Effort, no sacrifice can be too great to hasten the Day of Victory.

Keep the Flag Flying!

**BUY WAR BONDS!**