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THE POLISH REVIEW

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Squadron Leader W. Kolaczowski by Eric Kennington. Shown at the "Britain at War" Exhibition at the American British Art Center, New York City

Polish Minister of Interior Broadcasts to Poland

Minister Wladyslaw Banaczyk broadcasting to Poland on July 27 said in part: "In the present situation the Polish Government is forced to disclose, despite the danger of betrayal and of German reprisals, that in the Polish Underground there are functioning the Deputy-Premier of the Polish Government and three Ministers: Wlakowicz, Traugutt and Polski.

"Active also are the state and municipal administrations and the Council of National Unity, representing the political life of the country. Although using pseudonyms now, they will come into the open at the proper time and in the place where they are holding office. Their names are known to the British and American Governments.

"Disclosing these facts, the Polish Government believes that for five years these men have been leading the resistance. It believes the work of the Polish Underground State will be recognized as the rightful representative of the legal state authority and of the will of the nation, which complying with their orders, has not flinched in its fight and by its attitude and readiness to sacrifice, has proved its right to a truly free and independent Poland.

". . . The rapid development of events on the Eastern Front shows the days of German rule in Poland are numbered. Under the impact of the heroic Soviet forces the resistance of the German armed forces is breaking. The rate of the Red Army's advance is doubtless speeded up by the fighting Polish Underground Army, which, obeying the orders of its Government, has passed to open fighting against the Germans.

". . . Germany's days are numbered and German crimes are carefully noted, too. A special office of the Polish Ministry of Home Affairs is working, in cooperation with other Allied commissions, on compiling lists of German war criminals. And Germans should not imagine that these criminal records will be forgotten by the victors, after the war, in an atmosphere of lenience."

"Grant us a sense of power, Lord
Grant us a living Poland, pray.
Make manifest the promised Word
In our unhappy land today."

—Stanislaw Wyspianski (1869-1907)

Polish Underground Battles Germans In Silesian Forest

Guerrilla warfare in Poland has never for a moment ceased throughout the five years of German oppression. Partisan groups dot the countryside, and are particularly numerous in the wilder, wooded regions of Poland. They have constantly engaged regular German forces in pitched battles. "The Western Lands of the Polish Republic," an underground monthly regularly published in Poland, gives the following account of one such encounter with the enemy in its January, 1944, number.

THE 26th of September, 1943, in the wild woods of Silesia: A small detachment of partisans called "Chestnuts" rests deep in its fastness. All told there are 20 of us—20 youths, of whom one had been wounded the day before, another was only 16 years old, and a third unarmed. In fact our whole party has only eight small caliber automatic pistols for arms.

There, through the leaves of our rude shelter pour rivulets of rain. All of us are hardened to forest life, but the cold, penetrating rains of autumn do not serve to improve anyone's temper, particularly as it is too dangerous to build a fire. Just the day before we had learned of new concentrations of German police and home-guard squads in our region. After a cold breakfast and lunch our only chance to warm up would be a good fight. At the very thought, hands instinctly clutch revolvers tighter. Eyes shine with expectation.

From far along the near-by road comes the hum of motors, one, two, three, four. Why so many?

Our outposts run up to report that we are surrounded—the German motorcycles have left the road and are driving straight into our forest. The terrain is flat and hard, and wide paths through the woods are seemingly made to order for them. On top of this, some fifth columnist must have made their search all the easier, else they'd never have found us out. Without this spy the Germans could have searched all year without finding us.

But now's no time for discussion. The motors are coming closer at full speed. Bullets from enemy machine-guns already spray over our heads. They cut through the underbrush of the forest, leaving straight little paths in the foliage. All of us boys hug the ground as we hastily crawl forward to meet the enemy in mortal combat. There is no other way out. All routes of escape are blocked. By this time we all realize that this is not an ordinary German man-hunt. This time the Germans are hunting marked quarry. Very obviously they expect their assignment to be easy. They expect to "liquidate," without any trouble, this group of Polish "bandits"—a detachment of nine boys, actually armed with eight revolvers.

It is apparent that they are perfectly acquainted with our situation. Their prey is singled out. Some spy must have informed these stupid Fritzes and cowardly Hanses that the Polish partisans now in this forest are few and poorly armed. What a heaven-sent opportunity to show their superiors that they are more needed here than in the front-lines.

Four hundred of them, armed to the teeth with side arms, machine-guns, grenades and even blood-hounds especially

trained for man-hunting come to wipe out our formidable detachment. They set up machine-gun nests at every crossing of forest paths. So tight is their net that no one could possibly escape. We are caught in a thicket half-a-kilometer square and surrounded on all sides. Nevertheless through their dull German brains runs the fear that after all eight pistols are eight pistols and there's no use taking chances. Instead of closing in, they wait for us to make the first move.

Their heroic leader, Feuer, breaks the impasse by ordering them to open fire. German machine-guns sing out their song of death, accompanied by rifles and the deeper bass tones of grenade explosions. Deadly serious German faces peer over the Teutonic rifles aimed at our hiding place. To quell this Polish mutiny, to kill every one of us, to bury us where we fall, here under these little pines of our thicket, all this is written in the hard lines of the brutal faces that confront us.

So heavy is the German fire that, as we later learned, old women in neighboring villages reached for their rosaries at sound of it and knelt to pray before household shrines, while among their men the rumor spread that English paratroops had landed.

Finally, Feuer gives the order to cease fire. Silence, broken only by rain pattering on the leaves and needles of the trees, again reigns in the forest.

The wet, shivering dogs refuse to go into the deep, dripping thickets. Anyway, they cannot catch the scent in all this rain, so their masters decide that no one could have lived through so heavy a barrage. The cold rain grows heavier, chilling all to the very marrow. It is time, they seem to decide, to count their trophies and go back to their warm, snug barracks.

Led by a tall, ruddy guardsman one after another they jump into our fastness. Suddenly, out of the bullet-shorn clump of trees come two shots that kill their red-headed leader. An indistinct shadow moves among the trees, but the now-terrified super-men are in no mood to give chase. Feuer yells a command that again makes the forest resound with the clatter of many machine-guns. This time the fire continues from 2:30 in the afternoon until 7:30 at night. Verily a great battle rages there deep in the wild forests. At five the Germans score their first success. From somewhere nearby there comes a yell of pain.

In the heather, lying face down in his own blood is the youngest of our band, 16-year old George. He has been hit by a machine-gun, but still lives. The Germans notice him. Abandoning their weapons, they run toward him. This herd of wild, maddened beasts falls upon poor George, and we can't lift a finger to help him. But, at the last moment, a fat guardsman stands up to shield him with his own body. On the beefy, sweating faces of the Germans, we see disappointment and rage.

"You can't kill him like this," says the guard. "Let's set the dogs on him instead. That way, it'll be much more fun." "Sieg Heil!" reply his soldiers. Two enormous wolf-dogs are let loose. Bones crack audibly under their powerful jaws

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T H E S T O R Y O F W I L N O *

AMERICANS may find it difficult to understand why Adam Mickiewicz, the greatest of Polish poets, himself the very soul and symbol of Poland, who never ceased to preach to the world of the 19th century the necessity of Poland's restoration, called himself a Lithuanian and began his greatest epic with the invocation: *Lithuania, my country, thou art like health itself!* They may wonder why in the wars fought by Poland for her independence, "Lithuanians" invariably appeared at the head of the movement: Kosciuszko in 1794, Prince Michal Radziwill in 1831, Romuald Traugutt in 1863. And they may ask why the one man who more than any other was responsible for Poland's rebirth in 1918, Marshal Pilsudski, loved his native "Lithuania" so deeply that he asked to have his heart buried in Wilno.

Riddles of this sort are generally solved by a look at history. The Lithuania of the Middle Ages, voluntarily united to Poland in 1386, was something quite different from the Lithuanian republic created during the First World War. Ancient Lithuania was never an ethnic unit. In the 14th century the Grand Duchy of Lithuania embraced many lands and nations between the Baltic and the Dnieper and between the Dvina and the Pripiet. The Lithuanians were in the minority in that vast state, inhabiting even in those remote days a territory ethnographically almost identical with the territory of the Lithuanian Republic, founded in 1918. In 1386 Wladyslaw Jagiello, Grand Duke of Lithuania, received baptism from Polish hands, married Jadwiga, Queen of Poland, and defeated the Teutonic Knights at Grunwald in 1410 at the head of an army composed of Poles and Lithuanians. He eventually became the progenitor of a line of remarkable monarchs who, with an ever-increasing number of their Lithuanian and White Ruthenian subjects were completely assimilated to their Polish environment. This fusion of the two kingdoms in one, which was started by the first of the Jagiellos at Horodlo in 1413, was finally fulfilled by the last king of the same dynasty, Zygmunt August, when in 1569, at the Diet of Lublin the Polish and Lithuanian deputies unanimously decided that the union should cease to be personal or dynastic and become virtual.

The literary language of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was the ancient Slavonic of the Eastern Church using a special alphabet attributed to St. Cyril. But it did not prove adaptable enough to the needs and aspirations of the new times, and at the end of the 17th century was superseded by Polish. This gradual change was spontaneous and unaffected by any kind of pressure.

Private life and literature forestalled this decision by many years. It was certainly an instance of Polish cultural ascendancy if in 1564 in Czerinchow, far beyond the Dnieper, an Orthodox prayer-book was published in the Polish language, and in 1638 one of the Orthodox monasteries of Wilno edited the famous Polish translation of the Psalms by Jan Kochanowski. And it was not by pure accident that the two best known Protestant translations of the Bible into Polish were published in the Grand Duchy—one by a Calvinist, Prince Mikolaj Radziwill, at Brzesc in 1563, the other by an "Arian," Simon Budny, at Nieswiez in 1572.

If such was the general character of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, this naturally told on its capital, Wilno. Even presuming that its origins were purely Lithuanian, its character soon changed as it became the metropolis of one of the largest European realms in which other races and languages were in strong majority. In the 15th and 16th centuries, Wilno enjoyed a period of peace, prosperity and brilliance so that it became one of the most flourishing cities in this



Panorama of Old Wilno.

part of Europe. It was with Cracow the capital of the vast Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and at some periods in the 16th century the actual political center of the united countries. The royal court resided here and displayed the splendor characteristic of the Renaissance. Below the ancient fortified castle an ample Grand Ducal palace was constructed, numerous churches were erected, the great families of the Grand Duchy built themselves town residences, employing many Polish craftsmen in the process. Artists from foreign countries, especially Italy, exhibited their talents and rapidly found pupils among the gifted local population.

Nor had education and knowledge been forgotten. In 1578 King Stefan Batory founded a college under the name of the Academy of Wilno and entrusted it to the Jesuits. Piotr Skarga, the unmatched master of Polish sacred oratory, became its rector. Incidentally, one of its professors, James Bosgrave, made his way to England and was arrested there as a Catholic. King Batory intervened on his behalf, writing a letter to Queen Elizabeth in 1583.

When we consult some of the ancient collections of laws and privileges of the city of Wilno, we find that whereas in the 15th and 16th centuries about 50% of the documents were written in Latin, 45% in Slavonic and 5% in Polish, in the 17th century 66% were in Polish, 26% in Latin and only 8% in Slavonic. Many testaments of townspeople of Wilno from this period have also been preserved. The Catholics, who were in a strong majority, wrote them exclusively in Polish, but even 50 out of every 100 followers of the Greek Church used the Polish language for expressing their last

will. Sermons in Lithuanian were preached in only one out of twenty-odd churches, and even this custom became extinct in 1737. By the 18th century Wilno was to all intents and purposes a Polish city.

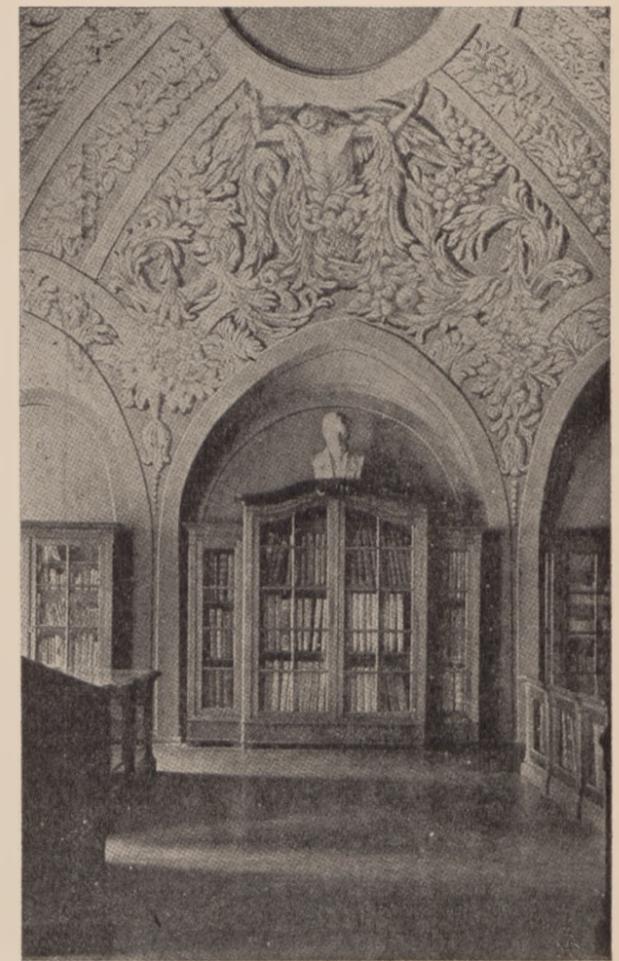
Wilno's history bears witness to the extraordinary vitality it displayed in surviving the incessant misfortunes which it had to face. The most striking, perhaps, is the fact that in spite of the disasters that befell it, from the end of the 17th century onwards Wilno developed more and more as a most remarkable artistic center. The baroque style flourished and Italian influences were pronounced and direct. Religious orders, such as the Dominicans and the Jesuits, kept up the medieval tradition and organized schools of fine arts for their members, a number of whom are known to have been sent to Italy to study.

The reign of Stanislaw-August (1764-1795), last King of Poland, brought about a marked improvement in material as well as in cultural conditions in all Poland. Wilno steadily emerged from its 17th century poverty and witnessed changes important for the future part it was to play in the history of the Polish nation. In 1775 one of the most important steps in the cultural revival of Poland was taken by the foundation of the famous Commission on National Education. The Academy of Wilno, until then a Jesuit College, was transformed into a secular university known as the Principal School of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

In the final phase of Poland's struggle against her neighbors who were proceeding to dismember her, Wilno gave a heroic account of itself. On March 24, 1794, Kosciuszko proclaimed the National Insurrection in Cracow. In the night



Polish White Eagle carried by student organizations at exercises marking the start of the academic year in Wilno.



Corner of Wilno University reading room named after Joachim Lelewel, famed 19th century Polish historian and professor at Wilno University.

of April 22-23 Wilno rose in arms, taking prisoner most of the Russian garrison with their commandant, General Arseniev. For several months the insurrectional authorities maintained themselves in the city. On July 19 and 20 a Russian army advanced on Wilno and tried to take it by storm, but was repulsed. On August 11, however, Wilno fell.

Eighteen years later the city once more lived days of great patriotic enthusiasm. Napoleon was leading his armies on Moscow. On June 28, 1812 he entered Wilno and was greeted as savior of Poland. He took up his abode in the episcopal palace, where he was to spend a whole month. A temporary Government was set up and the youth of the country flocked to the Polish colors. In December of the same year Wilno witnessed the horrors of the French retreat from Russia. But, for once, political disaster was not followed by reprisals and persecution. Czar Alexander I was in a magnanimous mood and he cherished the plan of reconstructing the former Kingdom of Poland under his scepter. Alexander's early liberal attitude toward the Poles was largely due to his personal friendship with a young Pole, established in St. Petersburg as a kind of hostage to guarantee his family's loyalty, Prince Adam Czartoryski. To this Wilno owed one of the most fruitful episodes in its history. In 1803 the old University which, since the partition of Poland, had led a somewhat precarious existence, was transformed into an Imperial University. Simultaneously its curriculum

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* Condensed from *The Story of Wilno*, published by the Polish Research Centre in London.

POLISH PHILATELY IN AMERICA

by BERT POWELL, Promotional Secretary and Director, Society of Philatelic Americans

POLISH philately has had its devotees in the United States for a great many years; just how many is not definitely known. However, when famous Polish stamp collections in this country are mentioned, such names as that of Domanski, Kozakiewicz, Rich, Godlef and Lewandowski are immediately brought to mind. Most of these gentlemen were exhibiting their Polish holdings, in stamp exhibitions here and abroad, long before organized Polish philately was ever born in this country. In this field, all credit must be given these men for pioneering the stamps of Poland in the United States. In many cases, their collections are internationally known. Some of these philatelists, as for example, Messrs. Domanski and Rich, have done considerable writing on various phases of Polish stamps and their articles have done much to add to the philatelic record of Poland in this country. Their treatise on Poland's first stamp (Poland No. 1) sometimes known as the "Lone Adhesive," for example, is not only of a very high order, but is also the most learned and complete in the English language. Since the plundering Nazis have issued orders to burn all Polish books in that country, it is not unreasonable to assume that philatelic works on the stamps of Poland compiled by such famous philatelic students as Mikstein, Rachmanow, Gryzewski and Rembierski have not escaped the self-styled, "superior Aryan's" systematic stamping out of Polish culture. It is fortunate indeed, therefore, that Polish philatelic writings published in this country, are preserved for the record.

The great handbook on Polish stamps, printed in that language and published in Poland is entitled *Ikaros*. From the known record, it is extremely doubtful if more than twelve to eighteen copies are known to exist in this country. The importation of this truly great Polish philatelic reference work stopped with the commencement of the brutal and unprovoked hostilities by the murdering Nazi hordes. The limited number of copies of *Ikaros*, in the hands of American collectors, together with the addition of the articles written by Polish collectors in this country, will undoubtedly form a very necessary aid in re-establishing the philatelic record in Poland, when freedom comes there again. The contribution of American aid will prove invaluable!

ORGANIZED POLISH PHILATELY.

The record shows that it was not until January, 1938, that the first Polish stamp club was formed in this country. To Buffalo, New York, goes the honor of being the first city wherein organized Polish philately was born. The name, fittingly chosen for the new society was, The White Eagle Stamp Club. Pressing the newly-formed organization for the honored "first," was the Pulaski Philatelic Club of Detroit, Michigan, which came into existence just one month later; February, 1938.

The largest and now possibly the most aggressive and active group, the Polonus Philatelic Society was organized in Chicago, Illinois, in February, 1939. Other Polish stamp groups followed the formation of the three clubs mentioned above, from time to time, until now there are about six Polish stamp clubs known to be in existence. Of course in stamp clubs, like in everything else, the war has made itself felt. While attendance has no doubt fallen off, yet in many cases a few of the active members continue to carry on the good work. It is safe to assume that after the cessation of hostilities, Polish philatelics in the United States will grow as it never has before, due to the unceasing publicity and work being carried on by the societies now in existence.

A record has been compiled by the author of the various Polish stamp clubs known in this country, and where the history of such an organization is also known, it has been

kept for the record. This record is now being published for the first time together with the names of the various contact persons in the organization when such is known.

THE WHITE EAGLE STAMP CLUB OF BUFFALO, N. Y.

This club was organized in January, 1938, under the auspices of the publication in that city known in English as Polish Everybodys Daily. This organization has a record of several unusual and large stamp exhibitions to its credit and was the first group in America to hold a stamp exhibition as a Polish group. Other accomplishments include a record of several stamp auctions, the proceeds of which were donated to the various Polish Relief Funds. When war came to Poland, organized Polish Philately was quick to come with aid, and this group was one of the very first to do so. It is the custom in this country to issue souvenir sheets in connection with philatelic exhibits and since the White Eagle Stamp Club was the first Polish stamp club ever to hold an exhibit in this country, their souvenir sheet issued for the affair becomes the first such remembrance to be issued in this country by a Polish group. The sheet was a very artistic one printed in the languages of the two countries and designed by Mr. Stanley Arnstein of that club who is an artist.

This club is also extremely proud of the fact that it has had the honor of receiving the Apostolic Benediction from His Holiness, Pope Pius XII. Mr. Joseph Wiza, 258 Wilson Ave., Buffalo, New York, will be very happy to answer any inquiries pertaining to this organization.

THE PULASKI PHILATELIC CLUB OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

This group was formed in February, 1938, just one month after the start of the White Eagle Stamp Club, and has a most enviable record of accomplishment. It has a national reputation for the general excellence of its philatelic exhibitions and in the early days of organized Polish philately, the club probably exhibited more Polish stamps than any other similar group then in existence. It has done much to awaken interest in Polish Philately among collectors in the Detroit area. As so many Poles, the club's members are not only interested in Polish stamps, but in all things Polish. Mrs. Theophilia Sawicka, a charter member of this club, has donated historical material pertaining to The Polish White Cross of World War I days; to the P. R. C. U. museum in Chicago, thus preserving for posterity the charitable chapter as played by the Poles of this country to their less fortunate brethren in Poland.

One of the most dramatic chapters in this club's history is the important part which they played in the famous World Wide Convention of 1940, which was held in their city. Not only did they have a large display of Polish stamps in the exhibition held in connection with the convention, but they were also responsible for a beautifully printed program for the affair—which was the only program given by any group at the convention. This club also acted as hosts to visiting Polish delegates and the series of informal parties given the visiting guests, are still a pleasant remembrance by the many collectors who attended them.

A high honor was paid the Pulaski Philatelic Club at this convention. They were presented with the beautiful gold Bielce trophy in recognition of their achievements in Polish Philately.

Detroit being the arsenal of democracy, and many of the club's members being in war work, it is but natural that the war has temporarily lessened the club's activity, but has not daunted their spirit of progress, for they are still forging ahead in Polish philatelic fields.

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POLISH WAR STAMPS

EXAMINER
OPENED BY
1674
EXAMINER



R
POLSKA MAR. WOJENNA
AGENCJA POCZTOWA
No. _____

Ankara



SIX CENTURIES OF WARSAW'S GLORIOUS PAST*

by OSCAR HALECKI

WARSAW'S past can be traced back much farther than 1939. Exactly six hundred years before the tragedy of 1939, Warsaw appeared for the first time on a memorable page of Polish history. And the issues which were discussed in Warsaw in September, 1339, were exactly the same that six centuries later inspired the heroic defenders of Poland's capital.

After having been cut off from her Baltic coast, and after more than twenty years of vain protests and armed resistance, Poland had been invaded by the Teutonic Order and cruelly devastated. Bohemian and Hungarian mediation having failed to settle the problem, it was finally brought, in 1339, before an ecclesiastical court: French judges appointed by the Pope, came to Warsaw and during seven months carefully listened to the statements of 126 representatives of all Polish provinces and all classes of Polish society, which proved that the lost territory was Polish from time immemorial.

It was in vain that the court decided in favor of Poland; the award published in Warsaw was entirely disregarded by the German side and it was more than one hundred years before the wrong done to Poland was repaired. Warsaw, in 1339 was a small town of one of the Masovian duchies not yet completely reunited with the Kingdom of Poland and therefore considered almost neutral territory. But during the centuries to come it grew steadily, eventually becoming

* Condensed from an article by Prof. Halecki in the October 24, 1943 number of *Tygodnik Polski*.

the capital of Poland, both old and new, as well as one of the largest cities in Europe. The six centuries of that development can be divided into two almost equal periods: a little more than three hundred years of peace, prosperity and happiness, followed by almost three hundred years of tragic vicissitudes, including a succession of gallant fights and untold sufferings.

During the first two centuries of Warsaw's existence, the whole province of Masovia, surrounded and defended by other Polish territories as well as by forests and lakes, was living a rather quiet life under a branch of the former dynasty, the Piasts. And quietly Warsaw, without having been the original capital of Masovia, nor even the capital of a leading duchy, benefited by its favorable situation in the very heart of the country to outgrow the older centers, Plock and Czersk, and to become the residence of the last Masovian dukes who died in 1524 and 1526.

It, therefore, was in Warsaw that the fate of Masovia was decided, and that in 1529 the Polish Diet, for the first time meeting in that city, eventually made the whole province an integral part of the Kingdom. On the decisive date of 1526, Warsaw entered an epoch of more than a century, where the happiness of the city resulted from the true greatness of its historical role.

On several occasions, the Polish Diet, from the fifteenth century usually meeting in Piotrkow, returned to Warsaw where it was easier for the Lithuanian Diet to be represented. And when it was agreed in Lublin in 1569 that Poland and Lithuania would henceforth have one common Diet and elect in common one ruler, it was decided that in the future this Diet would meet regularly in Warsaw and the election of the King would take place in one of Warsaw's suburbs, at Wola.

In the history of Warsaw, the decisions of 1569 were only the first step toward its recognition as capital of the Royal Republic. The next and final one was made soon after the election of Sigismund III, in 1587, who wanted to be nearer to his Swedish home land and to the Baltic, and therefore towards the end of the century, transferred his residence from Cracow to Warsaw. It was his royal castle that was to be destroyed by the Germans during and after the bombardment of 1939, and his statue, astonishingly unharmed, is still looking down, from a high column, on the unfortunate city.



Warsaw in the 16th Century.

But its happiness remained undisturbed during his and his successor's, Wladyslaw IV's reign. Never had Warsaw been more flourishing, adorned by new constructions, and famous all over Europe as the center of a country whose boundaries had never been larger than in the first half of the seventeenth century. A Tsar of Russia was brought to Warsaw as a prisoner of war, and the successors of Albrecht von Brandenburg, paid homage to the king of Poland in the new capital of Warsaw.

The tide was, however, turning, and Warsaw, after having shared with the whole country its days of prosperity, entered with her, in 1648 into a long period of calamities. Though alarmed by the Cossack insurrection which started at that date, the capital was never reached by these internal enemies. But the foreign invasions of the so-called "Deluge" soon made the very center of Poland for the first time a battleground. In September, 1655, Warsaw was occupied by the Swedes, and scarcely liberated, fell again temporarily into the hands of the aggressors, after an unsuccessful battle of three days which in July, 1656, had to be fought near the city, not only against the Swedes but also against the Prussian vassal of Poland who had betrayed her.

The glory of Sobieski who had his favorite residence in the castle of Wilanow, next to Warsaw, did not last, and fifty years after the first Swedish invasion, a second one led to another battle of Warsaw, in 1704. After the decline of the country and of its capital under Saxon kings who preferred to stay in Dresden, the reign of Stanislaw August Poniatowski, Poland's last king who

was crowned in 1764, not on the Wawel, but in the Cathedral of Warsaw, seemed to favor the city. He made it the center of a splendid cultural revival, of which the Lazienki palace was to be a lasting testimony, and the scene of a promising reform movement: Warsaw's greatest days were believed to have returned when Poland's Great Parliament was in session there for four years and when the constitution of May 3, 1791, was adopted, amidst the enthusiasm of the population.

When twelve years later Napoleon liberated the central part of Poland, but in order to appease Russia, avoided using the name of Poland, he called his creation the Duchy of Warsaw, certainly a tribute to the city's historical role. The same century was, however, a period of Warsaw's resistance against Russian rule, truly symbolic of Poland's unconquerable spirit. Recognizing the



By Ludwika Kraskowska-Nitschowa

"Mermaid." The mermaid is Warsaw's coat-of-arms.

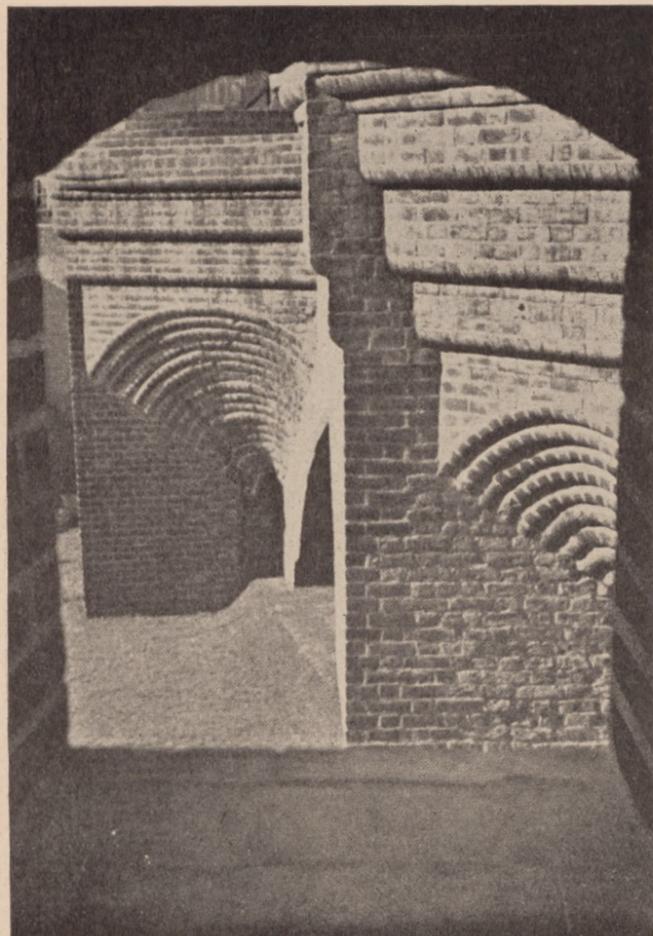
fictional character of the autonomy granted in 1815, Warsaw started the November insurrection of 1830 as well as the January insurrection of 1863, both of which did not end before "order" was re-established in the heroic city. In vain a Russian citadel was built at Warsaw's outskirts and a Russian cathedral on its largest square. In vain everything was superficially Russified: from the University to the names of the streets. In vain the city was punished, sometimes by bloody repressions, and continuously by the neglect of the administration. It rebelled again in 1905 showing that Poland was ready for her liberation.

That liberation was preceded in 1915, by another occupation, the German one. Warsaw utilized the change and the struggle between the two invaders in order to prepare itself for being again the

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Old City Market Square in Warsaw.



Restored fragment of old walls in Warsaw.

LWOW—ALWAYS FAITHFUL

by CASIMIR LOGORZEWSKI

IN the old Polish Republic the eastern part of Galicia, together with Volhynia, was called Red Ruthenia (*Rus Czerwona*), red, of course, not on account of the views of its inhabitants, but, because of the color of its soil and the general appearance of the houses.

Taken from the Poles in the tenth century by Vladimir, Duke of Kiev, Red Ruthenia returned to them in 1340 and has since formed an integral part of Poland. After the destruction of the Kiev State by the Tartar Kipcak Golden Horde, Red Ruthenia was virtually under the supremacy of the Tartars, but the local dukes of Halicz and Wlodzimierz enjoyed a great measure of autonomy owing to the great distance separating them from the Crimea. In 1240, Duke Danilo decided to build a new settlement on a site less accessible, particularly from the east. He found the defensible terrain he needed in a basin surrounded by hills, and it was there that he built the city of Lwow. The Mazovian



Cemetery of the Defenders of Lwow in 1919-1920.

Piast, Boleslas Trojdenowicz, the last ruler of Lwow, to whom the Ruthenian boyars yielded the Ducal seat, decided to bequeath the city to Poland, then governed by his brother-in-law, King Casimir the Great. After the death of Boleslas in 1340, Casimir extended the sovereignty of the Polish dynasty of Piasts over all Red Ruthenia. Casimir replaced the wooden castle by one of stone, surrounded the city of Lwow with a wall, and supplied it with arms and implements of defense. The Jagiellon kings continued the work of the Piasts, spending great sums on fortifications, and made Lwow into a stronghold whose inhabitants—Poles, Ruthenians, Armenians, Wallachians, Jews and Germans—could feel secure. The economic progress of the city began in 1380 when it received the "right of emporium." That exceptional privilege secured for Lwow a virtual monopoly of the eastern trade. The spirit of toleration and freedom and the protection of a powerful State favored the development of the city culturally, socially and economically. Lwow attained a high standard of well-being; by the end of the fourteenth century it had become the most important and populous city of the Kingdom of Poland.

In the course of time the non-Polish inhabitants of Lwow became polonized, a process which went on without any external pressure, and which was rendered easier by religious toleration. It may be recalled that at a time when in Western Europe religious disputes were settled by force of arms, King Zygmont I of Poland (1521) established the principle that concord and equal rights for all forms of religion among the inhabitants should be secured *non via iuris, sed plano et per concordian*. From 1661 Lwow had its own university, and as Stanislaw Zakrzewski, a Polish historian, said, "Lwow in those days was indisputably the first town in Poland principally in respect of its intellectual and spiritual values, but also in respect of its devotion to the country." When a few years earlier, in 1655, Bohdan Khmelnytsky, a Ruthenian (Ukrainian) leader who had disowned the Polish crown and recognized the overlordship of the Tsar of Moscow, invested

Lwow, demanding that it should capitulate and pledge allegiance to the Tsar, Samuel Kuszewicz, a Ruthenian, representing the burghers, replied: "We will never swear allegiance to the Tsar of Moscow; we will never surrender. We keep our faith to the King of Poland in whatever form future fate may send him."

After 432 years with Poland, Lwow was annexed by Austria, but its inhabitants remained loyal to their partitioned country. The Vienna Government embarked on a Germanizing policy in Galicia, but it failed. And in April, 1848, a deputation of Poles, Ruthenians and Jews from Lwow submitted a petition to the Emperor in Vienna which, while asking for "a nationally based government in the province," bluntly stated that "complete independence of our country was the final goal of our desires." Vienna granted Galicia autonomy in 1867, and from that time Lwow was the capital of the province and seat of the Galician *Sejm* (Diet), for half a century the sole representative institution in any of the territories of the former Polish State. During the first session of the Galician *Sejm* two leading citizens of Lwow freely spoke their minds and hearts. "Being a part of the Polish Nation," declared deputy Florian Ziemiakowski, "we cannot, as we are advised to do, enter into such relations with any other nation as would prejudice the future of our own." And another deputy, Franciszek Smolka, added: "Galicia is an organic part of the former Polish State, that great historical and political unit which fulfilled, a thousand years ago, and still fulfills today, a remarkable mission in the history of Europe, and although erased from the list of independent States, lives a full life in the fellowship of nations."

With the beginning of the constitutional era in municipal government, in 1870, the freely elected City Council was faced with an enormous task. The city, deliberately degraded and impoverished by the Austrians throughout a century, had to be brought into contact with Western European civilization, to which it had always belonged. How the Polish mayors who held office between 1870 and 1914 discharged

their tasks can be seen from these comparative figures:

The increase of population was remarkable. When Austria annexed Lwow (1772), the number of inhabitants was about 30,000; in 1870, it was 87,000; in 1910, 206,574. The last figure included 101,267 Roman Catholics (51.7%), 34,454 Greek Catholics or Uniates (17.1%) and 56,751 Jews (29%). If language is taken as the criterion 175,560 persons spoke Polish (85.8%); 21,780, Ruthenian (10.8%); and 6,825, German (3%). The Jews were not treated by the Austrian authorities as a separate linguistic or national group; accordingly, in the census of 1910 a large number of Jews gave their native language as Polish.

The general economic development of the city is well illustrated by the growth of its expenditure. In 1627 Lwow's budget amounted to 24,000 Polish zloty, equivalent to 96,000 Austrian crowns. But in 1774 (two years after the annexation) the budget fell to 20,000 crowns. In 1860 it was over a million crowns, and in 1910 the figures were: income, 7,606,207 crowns; expenditure, 8,776,933.

In 1873 the old University was re-founded on a Polish basis. Its progress may be deduced from the following data: in 1870 there were 46 courses of lectures in German, 13 in Latin, 13 in Polish and 7 in Ruthenian. In 1906 there were 185 courses in Polish, 19 in Ruthenian, 14 in Latin and 5 in German.

At this period Lwow was again the center of Polish life and activities. Its historian, Fryderyk Papée, wrote: "It became the true heart and brain of Poland. From it proceeded every effort in the cause of independence. From it went out a new generation, which was to take an active part in building up the Polish State. This was undoubtedly the brightest and most active period in the history of our city after the Partitions."

After a hundred and forty-six years of Austrian rule, Lwow and all Eastern Galicia returned to Poland. But the year 1918 brought an important change. For its incorporation within the boundaries of the resurgent Republic, Lwow had to pay a high price, not only in blood, but also in the surrender of the position it had occupied as capital of a large



Fragment of the arcaded courtyard of the so-called "Royal House" in the Lwow market-place.



Landmark of modern Lwow: Municipal Electric Company Building.

province with a population of over eight million. The center of Polish life shifted to Warsaw, and Lwow became but one of the seventeen provincial capitals. The city however retained its economic and cultural importance and its population increased steadily: from 206,500 in 1910 it rose in 1931 to 312,200, of whom 198,200 (64 per cent) were Poles, 35,100 (11 per cent) Jews. A census carried out by the Germans in September, 1942, showed that the Poles still formed 59.6 per cent of the total number of inhabitants. According to the official German guide *Das General-Gouvernement* by Karl Bädcker (Leipzig 1943), the city of Lwow, to which the Germans added some suburban districts, has now a population of 420,000, of whom 12,000 are Germans, 42,000 (10 per cent) Ukrainians and "the rest are Poles," the "rest" being 366,000. The Jews are not mentioned, but it is known that the Jewish ghetto of Lwow was "liquidated" in 1942.

Poles Take Ancona — Adriatic Anchor of Gothic Line

ON July 17, 1944, Polish troops, fighting up the Adriatic Coast of Italy with the British Eighth Army, captured the vitally important port of Ancona, key eastern base of the Germans' defense line, and have swept far to the northwest, taking many prisoners and much abandoned war material.

The Polish Second Corps began its victorious drive up the Adriatic coast on June 17, a month before the fall of Ancona. The following day, June 18, the Poles had taken the small town of Cellino. Free at last from the Fascist and German oppressors who had held them in bondage so long, the Italian inhabitants greeted them with cheers. They related, with smiles of gratitude, German warnings that Poles rob, loot and pillage; that they leave nothing but ruins behind them! However, people so long used to Fascist, later German lawlessness and terror, do not so easily believe in tales designed solely to blind them to reality. Their hatred of the Germans, who for a year cast so deep a shadow over their land, is boundless. When groups of prisoners were marched through the town, Polish soldiers guarding them had to protect their captives from the just fury of quickly-gathered crowds of angry fist-shaking Italians.

Remembering Cassino and the way Polish soldiers fought there, the enemy was in full flight up the coast toward their next line of defense, the Gothic Line. Not until the 22nd, near the Chienti River, did the Poles catch up with them. By this time the Polish Second Corps held the hamlets of



ON THE POLISH FRONT IN ITALY

General Kazimierz Sosnkowski, Polish Commander-in-Chief, chats with General Oliver Leese, Commander of the Eighth Army, and General Wladyslaw Anders, Commander of the Polish Second Corps.

San Giorgio, Fermo, Cupra Maritima and Benedetto.

The Battle of the Chienti River raged for eight days and nights before the Poles succeeded in forcing their way across. Certain Polish detachments crossed during the very first day of battle. There, on the northern bank, they formed small bridgeheads that harried the enemy considerably, but which were later forced to withdraw under heavy concentration of German fire.

On the second day, after the Germans received heavy reinforcements, they tried to force Polish troops back from the southern bank of the river as well. However, all their attacks, that were covered by heavy barrages from field artillery and mortars, failed to dent the Polish position, and the enemy was forced to retreat back to the northern bank with heavy casualties.

Polish headquarters used the next two days to detect weak points in the German lines, while Polish patrols that crossed the river constantly, kept the Germans busy. Tanks were also used in this phase of the action. Finally, on June 30, the river Chienti was crossed by the entire Polish force and the Second Corps again marched north, taking the towns of Civitanova, Potenza, Monte Cossaro and Macerata.

The flowers and the old wine offered to the Poles by the inhabitants of the liberated areas of Italy were a sponta-

neous expression of Italian enthusiasm. Refugees began streaming homeward while Poles were still fixing their White Eagle banner atop flagpoles. In Porto di Potenza the Poles were greeted by large signs painted on the walls and lamp posts, "Evviva gli Polacchi," "Long Live the Poles!" A little further along, near Porto Recanati, from the rocky peninsula of Conero, Polish soldiers first looked down upon their ultimate objective, the port of Ancona.

The attack on this important port began on the 17th of July with a great artillery barrage and heavy aerial bombardment of the German positions. The attack was observed by General Kazimierz Sosnkowski, commander-in-chief of the Polish Armed Forces and General Wladyslaw Anders, commander of the Polish Second Corps making the attack. General Sosnkowski reached Italy by plane. After viewing the Cassino Battlefield from the air, he went directly to the front.

In general, enemy guns replied but weakly to the Polish barrage. Polish units early cut the lines of communication between the German artillery and observation posts, thus destroying accuracy of fire.

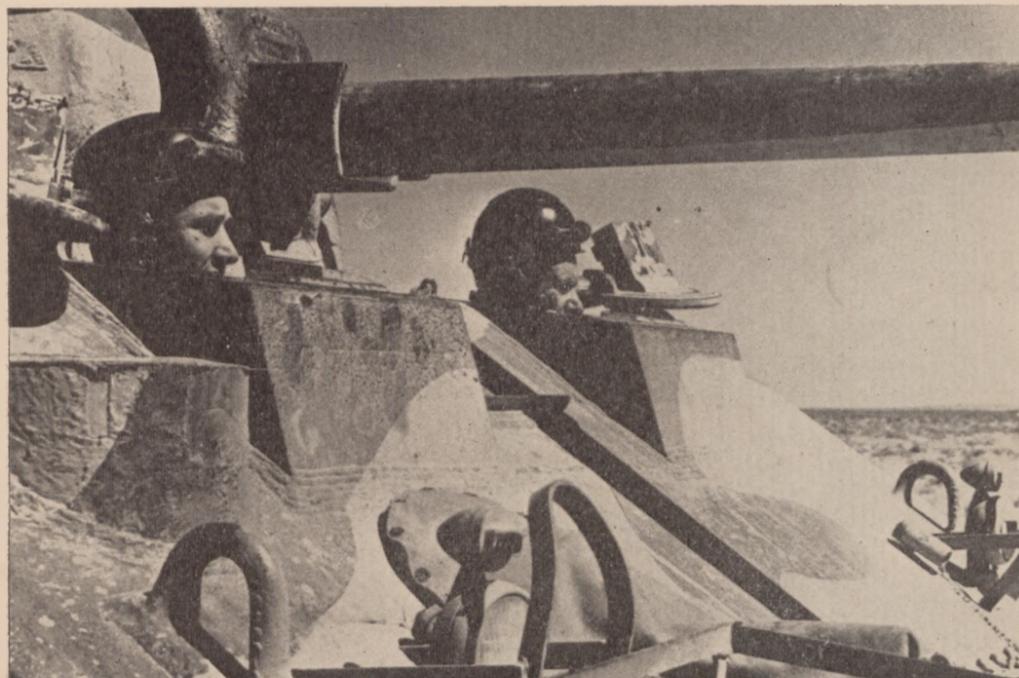
Polish infantry crossed the Mussona River almost unopposed, for the Germans, guarding this sector of the lines, were taken completely by surprise. They had not expected so bold a move so early in the game. Equally rapid and unexpected was the Second Corps' successful attack on the little riverside village of Casa Nuova. German soldiers there were forced into headlong flight. Some, caught off duty without uniforms, fled half-dressed to escape capture. Much valuable equipment was taken by the victors.

About eight the next morning, a Polish brigade took San Pateriano along with more prisoners. One of these prisoners taken by soldiers of the Kresowa or Border Division related that the Germans holding Ancona were fighting hard, but not as well as at Cassino. No longer do they fight until they drop or run out of ammunition. Now they surrender as soon as they realize the situation is hopeless. This way they avoid heavy losses.

Most of the Germans taken prisoner around San Pateriano were boys of 17 or 18, badly equipped, dirty and with a week's growth of beard attesting to the haste of their headlong flight up the Italian peninsula. The minute they were taken by Poles, they ceased paying attention to their officers



Polish tanks have just passed by.



Polish tanks in action on the Italian front.



Polish army in Italy advances.

who told them to "act more soldierly." Instead, they willingly and obediently followed the orders of Polish officers. Their garb was truly fantastic. One wore patent leather dress shoes, another had replaced his Sam Brown with a woman's belt. All of them wore some bits of stolen civilian clothing. The prisoners explained that lack of supplies had forced them to replace their own worn-out garments in this way. Despite the hot weather of the Italian summer, many still wore heavy winter uniforms.

As Poles intensified their attack on Ancona, the defending Germans replied with increased fury. Some places had to be taken in bloody, no-quarter, hand-to-hand combat. Nevertheless, many units of the German army hadn't any more fight left in them. Poles report that battalion after battalion simply turned tail and fled after just one taste of Polish artillery fire. Finally at 10 a.m., the Polish right wing attacked. A battalion of the Carpathian

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Polish Underground Army Participated in the Battle for Wilno

Two Polish Divisions Assaulted Wilno 12 Hours Before Russians

THE Polish Telegraph Agency in London published the following report from Poland: "The initiative for the assault on Wilno was taken by the Commander of the Wilno area of the Underground Army. Underground units two divisions strong carried out an independent assault on Wilno, the night of July sixth. These units were reinforced by forces brought up from the Nowogrodek area. Soviet forces joined in the fight for Wilno on July seventh, at four in the afternoon. The battle for Wilno was extremely violent and lasted until July tenth.

"During these days, an Underground battalion and a secret unit operating within the city itself, assaulted the Germans and began the liquidation of individual resistance nests. Fighting for some of these strongholds within Wilno lasted until July thirteenth. The 80th Infantry Regiment under the

command of Captain Jana, captured by a courageous attack a very strongly fortified point within the city that had been attacked previously by Soviet forces without result. Units under the command of Major Wengielyny and of Captain Szczerbiec also distinguished themselves in the fighting for Wilno.

"Independently of the battle for the city, units of the Underground Army in the Wilno area, consisting of three battalions and one artillery troop cooperated with a Soviet division in fighting near the River Wilja. Simultaneously, two battalions of the Underground Army carried out mopping up operations, thus facilitating the advance of the Soviet Army. In several localities—Nowowilejka and Turgiel—Polish security police carried out its duties after having thrown out the German occupants."

POLISH UNDERGROUND BATTLES GERMANS IN SILESIAN FOREST

(Continued from page 3)

and blood spews over everything. But, someone empties his pistol into the Germans' midst. Our leader, in a desperate attempt to save our fallen comrade, vents his rage in this way. They fall flat before the attack. By the time they open fire, our leader is safely hidden behind the thick growth of trees. The dogs take to their heels. This hidden pistol again confounds the enemy. Now they don't know what to think. The whines of the dogs reach us.

The Germans are already wearied of the fight. Their commander, far behind in a staff car, decides that they must search the forest thoroughly. They search, but while doing so, pray that they won't find anything. Up to now their "success" has been somewhat feeble, and gained only at a heavy price to their own forces.

In the forest's depths a dangerous enemy lurks and waits for a false move. There are supposed to be only eight of them now, but still the whole wood shakes incessantly with fire from their guns, as if a company of regular soldiers were there. In reality, it is fear, impelling the Germans to shoot unwittingly at one another.

A figure comes out onto one of the paths. A terrified German gunner sends a blast from his heavy machine-gun toward it. A German gendarme, who had been so sure that, stationed in this quiet corner of Europe, he would survive the war, falls to the ground dead.

But our partisan group is also having a tough time of it. Much as we'd like to, we don't dare open fire against such odds. We lie around in groups of twos and threes and slowly crawl to a less "crowded" part of the forest. Sometimes we crouch for hours at the very feet of the Germans, so close that they almost step on us.

Nevertheless, sometimes we are noticed. Then, we use our precious pistols to shoot our way out, or we simply crawl out under cover of machine-gun fire.

The rain has stopped. Dusk slowly envelops the forest. Thick clouds of white vapor rise in the paths and glades from the cooling ground. German fire grows irregular. They begin to withdraw. At 7:30 we hear the last machine-gun shot from near the railroad tracks. But, ironically, this time it at last finds its mark. Two of our boys are killed.

In the deepening silence of the night, our leader calls us together. Slowly we gather, but two are missing. He calls again, but again only silence. They are lost, killed by that last shot. The enemy paid too. The commander of the Forced Labor Camp in Klobuck and two policemen were killed. Two Bessarabians were seriously wounded. Two police dogs were also killed. None of the Germans were left with any desire for future man-hunts in the Polish forests. Night falls in the deep woods finally abandoned by the Germans. In the most secret glen we spend the night, at last comparatively safe and free to rest.

SIX CENTURIES OF WARSAW'S GLORIOUS PAST

(Continued from page 9)

capital of a free Poland. In 1918, after the breakdown of the German army, it proved easy to disarm the foreign garrison in the streets of Warsaw where both Pilsudski and Paderewski were enthusiastically welcomed one after the other. But before enjoying what seemed to be a new period of happiness, Warsaw had to live one of the most dangerous moments of its history. The Battle of Warsaw in August, 1920, was not only a highlight of the heroism of an already glorious city but a turning point in world history.

It was only after that "miracle of the Vistula" that Warsaw could lead the restored republic of Poland on the way of peaceful reconstruction and general progress. Only nineteen years were granted for that purpose. It proved an illusion that a new era of prosperity was beginning. Warsaw's

heroic age had not yet reached its climax. The same Mayor Starzynski who had hoped to achieve Warsaw's transformation into one of the most beautiful cities of Europe, decided he would rather see its complete destruction than to abandon a tradition of six hundred years. For the same cause which was discussed in the same and almost unknown Warsaw of 1339; for the greatness of Poland which made Warsaw's greatness in 1569; for the honor which was saved even in the defeats of 1656 or 1794; in memory of those who died in the streets of Warsaw or in Siberia after each of the insurrections; in memory of the boys led by a priest, almost as young as themselves, into the desperate struggle of Radzymin in 1920; in memory of the unknown defenders of Warsaw in all ages—Warsaw was defended again without any hope of avoiding the greatest tragedy of its history.

POLISH PHILATELY IN AMERICA

(Continued from page 6)

Mr. Frank Jancowski, one of the most active of the charter members of this club, resides at 3588 Frederick Street in Detroit, Michigan, and will be glad to hear from any one that may be interested in his club.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

This internationally known Polish philatelic society had its inception in Chicago, Illinois, in February, 1939, and has consistently added to its laurels ever since it was formed. It is beyond a doubt the most leading and active society for Polish stamp collectors in this country. Polish stamps were rarely, if ever observed in Chicagoland stamp exhibits previous to the formation of this dynamic group. Among their record of important Polish philatelic accomplishments are: gigantic displays of Polish stamps in their great annual show, the "Polpex," its large international membership, its past radio activity in publicizing the stamps of Poland, its helpful cooperation in the revision of the Polish section of Scott's catalog of stamps, its aggressive and constant publicity campaign on the stamps of Poland, its active junior programs and last but not least—the publication of its own organ, *The Polonus Bulletin*, which is one of the best written publications of its kind in this country.

The record would not be complete without mentioning the active campaign conducted by Polonus in 1943 to bring the first day of sale of the Polish Flag stamp to Chicago. The campaign was entirely successful, with the result that only the Polish Flag stamp of all the flag stamp issues was sold in two cities; Washington and Chicago on the first day of issuance. Important American and Polish officials participated in the opening day ceremonies, as well as the Polonus Philatelic Society whose aggressive campaign resulted in the first day of sale also being brought to Chicago. Great credit is due Mr. M. E. Steczynski, the president of Polonus for his hard work and active part in the campaign.

This society is also extremely active in participations of various stamp exhibits throughout the country and have thus attracted much favorable publicity to Polish stamps through this means. Numbered in its ranks are many members who are well informed students and writers on the stamps of Poland. At this very convention, a special meeting will be sponsored by Polonus, wherein the original research work on the much debated Cracow issues will be demonstrated by two of their ablest and well informed members, Messrs. J. Gapinski and F. E. Wolosewick. This important meeting is expected to be one of the philatelic highlights of the present convention. The record would not be complete without a mention of the famed Polonus Beeba's which are annually given by the society during International Philatelic Week for Chicagoland collectors. The Beeba's are a permanent institution in Chicagoland philatelic social activities. Many more successful accomplishments could be listed would the space permit. Mr. Jack Domar, the chairman of the membership committee, resides at 3715 Clinton Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois, and will be glad to answer any interested inquiries concerning the organization.

KOSCIUSZKO PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND, OHIO.

This society was organized during the 46th Annual Convention of the Society of Philatelic Americans, held in Cleveland, Ohio, during August 29 to September 1, 1940. Members of Polonus who also belonged to the Society of Philatelic Americans and who were in attendance at the convention, helped in the formulation of the Cleveland group.

Though not heard from very frequently, the writer understands, though slow, nevertheless progress is steady and that the society continues to flourish.

Sometime ago, the secretary, Mr. Jan Konwinski, advised that this group met on the second and fourth Friday of each month in the Polish National Alliance Home, Council No. 6, located at 7205 Fullerton Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Konwinski's address is 7209 Park Avenue in that city, and he will be glad to answer all interested inquiries.

POLONICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK.

According to an advertisement appearing in the February, 1942, issue of the Polonus Magazine, this society was formed on October 13, 1942. The writer does not possess much information on this group with the exception of a few details concerning their meeting place. In the same advertisement as mentioned above, the society mentions that it meets every fourth Sunday of the month in Dom Narodowy (National Home Building) located at 19-23 St. Marks Place, New York, New York. The meetings commence at 4 o'clock P.M.

No doubt, Mr. Wacław M. Komorowski, one of the officials of that club, would be interested to answer any inquiries addressed to him at the Dom Narodowy.

PADEREWSKI PHILATELIC CLUB OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

According to the record, this organization held their first meeting on Sunday, March 2, 1941, at the Art Stamp Shoppe located at 5348 Chene Street of Detroit, Michigan.

The club was apparently sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Cass Maternicki, who are the proprietors of the Art Stamp Shoppe. We believe that the club was organized for juniors but complete details are not at hand at the present time. No news of the organization has appeared in the recent philatelic press but no doubt, interested inquiries addressed to the Maternicki's will evoke a prompt response.

Contrary to general opinion, Polish collectors are not only interested in Polish stamps alone, but for historical reasons in several other countries' emissions as well. As a rule, they collect in addition to Polish stamps, those of Allenstein, Marienwerder, Central Lithuania, Eastern Silesia, Upper Silesia and Austrian Military stamps as well. Some specialists collect Poland under Austria, Russia and Germany also, so it may be observed that the field of Polish philately for specialization is indeed a large one.

Thus we have seen Polish philately continue to grow. Now that the Nazis have done such a thorough job of bombing Poland, the glory that was hers continues to live on Polish stamps and through the work of Polish stamp clubs in exhibiting, attracts favorable attention to the Polish cause.

POLES TAKE ANCONA—ADRIATIC ANCHOR OF GOTHIC LINE

(Continued from page 13)

Division advanced under murderous mortar fire, taking house after house.

Thus, on July 17th, two months after the capture of Monte Cassino, Polish units entered Ancona. From the old citadel Polish and British flags now fly. Poles were greeted by the remaining population who turned out to a man for an enthusiastic welcome. Women crying "Long Live Poland!" kissed

Polish soldiers and showered them with flowers. In return for the reception and wine, Poles established emergency bread stations for the starved populace. The C. O., following the wishes of the city, laid flowers on the tomb of the unknown Italian soldier killed during the first World War.

During the evening of the 18th of July all church bells in Ancona rang in memory of Poles killed in the battle. At noon of the 19th the Cracow Hejnal was sounded from the tower of Ancona Cathedral.

THE STORY OF WILNO

(Continued from page 5)

was extended, new chairs were established and a number of eminent men called upon to fill them.

The University was not only devoted to instruction and research. It was at the same time the center controlling the whole system of public education in all the formerly Polish provinces of the Russian Empire formed into one "educational district." Thus, the standard of education was rapidly raised and Wilno became the intellectual center of a vast region and a focus of Polish cultural life, well able to rival Warsaw. It reared a new generation that was destined to carry far into the 19th century, overshadowed by disasters as it was, a great tradition of patriotism, of generous ideas and of intellectual culture.

Alexander I's political plans based on an understanding with the Poles, had encountered much opposition among the high bureaucracy. One of its representatives was Senator Novosiltsov, who conducted the investigations against the students of Wilno and undermined Czartoryski's position as curator of the University. After the Czar's death in 1825 Polish relations with the Russian government became even more tense as reactionary currents in Russia definitely gained the upper hand. An armed rising broke out in Warsaw on November 29, 1830. The news soon reached Lithuania, where preventive arrests and deportations were engineered by the authorities. Nevertheless, many insurgent formations soon made their appearance, under leaders bearing names well known in Lithuania: Gruzewski, Staniewicz, Matuszewicz, Przedziecki, Father Jasinski, and the Polish Joan of Arc, Emilia Plater. The Poles put up a brilliant fight, but the superiority of the enemy was so great that the Polish army was repulsed and the fate of Wilno was sealed. Having suppressed the rising, the Russians closed the University of Wilno in 1832 in an attempt to destroy the Polish character of the northern and eastern provinces of the country. The Polish language was banned from the administration, courts and schools. 45,000 Polish families were deported into the interior of Russia. 200 Catholic convents and monasteries were closed or handed over to Russian Orthodox communities. In 1839 the Uniate Church, numbering millions of adherents, was suppressed in Eastern Poland and its congregations were forced into the State Church of Russia. But Wilno could not be kept down. In 1852, twenty years after the closing of the Polish University, 79 Polish books were printed in Wilno as against 3 Russian, 2 Lithuanian, 8 Hebrew, 4 Latin, and 1 German. And the list of martyrs who refused to admit Polish defeat at the hands of Czarist Russia had such distinguished names as Szymon Konarski, the Dalewski brothers, Zofia Klimanska, and Edward Zeligowski.

Wilno again took a very active part in the Polish rising of 1863. Ludwik Narbutt, M. E. Andriolli, Bitis, Pujdak, Lukaszunas, Kuszlejko, and Father Mackiewicz are some of the names on the city's honor roll. As a reprisal for Wilno's part in the insurrection, the Czarist Government appointed a new Governor-General, M. N. Muraviev, who has passed to posterity under the name of "the hangman." The reign of terror and draconic measures introduced by him were designed to discourage the Poles once for all from revolting. Summary public executions, burning of villages, wholesale deportations into Russia, forbidding the teaching of Polish publicly or privately, encouraging Russians to settle in Wilno were but a few of the steps taken by Muraviev to change the Polish character of the city.

Nevertheless, when in September, 1915, after more than a hundred years of domination, the Russians evacuated Wilno before the advancing German troops, and the Germans ordered a census of the city and province taken in 1916 under military administration that admitted no propaganda and came as a surprise to the population, Wilno was still Polish. Wilno District had 89.8% Poles, 4.3% Lithuanians, 4.3%

Jews, and 1.6% others. Wilno City had 50.2% Poles, 2.6% Lithuanians, 43.5% Jews and 3.7% others. The results of this census completely surprised the Germans. Having ascertained the numerical strength of the Poles in Wilno and province, the Germans began to persecute the Poles. Germany's capitulation to the Allies on November 11, 1918, brought new hope to the city that had suffered so much.

But it was several years before Wilno rejoined its sister cities in the Polish Republic. It changed hands a number of times: Poles, Russians and Lithuanians all held it at one time or another until General Lucjan Zeligowski occupied it on October 10, 1920. Free elections were held on January 8, 1922, to a special Diet that was to decide the future of the country. The Wilno Diet, composed of 106 members, voted, on February 20, 1922, for the incorporation of the whole province in the Polish Republic. Ninety-six members voted for the incorporation, six abstained from voting, and four were absent. Not a single vote was cast against the proposal.

On March 15, 1923, the Conference of Ambassadors meeting in Paris recognized the Polish-Lithuanian demarcation line as the final frontier between the two States. Wilno, City of the Heart, was conceded to be a part of free Poland.

Having become one of the most important cities of restored Poland, Wilno shared the general development of the country, though not without feeling the effects of the vicissitudes through which it had passed. Metalled roads there were none, railways few and far between, housing was inadequate, schools few, hospitals insufficient, sanitation bad, trade slack, stores and reserves of every kind exhausted. In due time all this began to change, increasingly so in the last years preceding this war. Wilno was linked to the outer world by a number of highways, and bus traffic enlivened the countryside. Agriculture made considerable headway, so did commerce, and the cooperative movement flourished. Industries adapted to the resources of the country were started, the output of timber, flax, meat and dairy products grew continuously and Wilno was again becoming a market of some importance.

Education advanced by leaps and bounds, new schools were opened. The reopened University comprised seven faculties. Seventeen learned societies and an Institute of East European Studies collaborated with the University. A remarkable artistic movement produced much good work in the fields of painting, architecture, history of art and artistic photography.

The population of the city increased and the municipal district was extended. By 1931 it numbered 195,100. Of these 128,600 spoke Polish, 54,600 Yiddish and Hebrew, 7,400 Russian, about 2,000 Lithuanian. The large Jewish community remained a striking feature of the city, and, as of old, Wilno was an important center of Jewish culture.

After a century of unprecedented trials, Wilno was rapidly recovering its ancient standing and dignity when it had to face new disasters and new ordeals. Foreign occupation was again its lot. However, the population census published in January, 1943, by the Lithuanian authorities in Wilno is still another document proving the Polish character of this city. Its inhabitants numbered 144,534 as against 209,000 in 1939. The figures for the various nationalities were: Poles 102,483—70.9%, Lithuanians 31,378—21.7%, White Ruthenians 3,015—2.1%, Russians 6,355—4.4%, Volksdeutsche 456—0.3%, others 847—0.6%. It is very characteristic that the census taken in 1943 by the Lithuanian authorities at Wilno fails to mention the Jewish population, which in 1939 still amounted to 28% of the total. The number of Lithuanians increased according to the 1943 Lithuanian census from 1% in 1939 to 21.7% in 1943, which increase is probably due to the influx of Lithuanian offices, police and armed forces included into this census.

On July 13, 1944, the victorious Soviet armies entered Wilno.