

Bibl. Jag.  
**THE POLISH REVIEW**  
VOL. V. FEBRUARY 8, 1945 No. 5



# Polish Government Suggests Temporary Interallied Administration of Poland

*The London "Times" of January 24, 1945, reports:*

"The Polish Government in London has submitted a memorandum to the British Government suggesting the setting up of an Interallied Commission to take over the temporary administration of Polish territory till free elections can be held.

"This memorandum was handed to Sir Alexander Cadogan, Permanent Undersecretary of State at the Foreign Office by Ambassador Edward Raczynski on January 23. In Washington, Ambassador Jan Ciechanowski delivered a copy to the State Department. This memorandum develops ideas expressed by the Polish Premier in his latest broadcast and urges a solution which will enable the Great Power which undertook friendly mediation between Poland and Russia, to bring about resumption of Polish-Russian negotiations with a view to establishing basic and lasting friendly cooperation.

"Premier Arciszewski said in his broadcast that all Polish-Russian problems could be solved easily, provided that Poland's right to freedom and independence were assured.

"The problem must be based on international right and vital Polish questions must not be settled without consultation with the Polish Government. The Polish Government seems ready to accept establishment of an Interallied Military Commission in Poland to administer Polish territory until free elections have been held. These elections, however, could not be held immediately but only after the return of millions of Poles from abroad—Poles now in prison, concentration and labor camps, as well as with the Polish fighting forces in the west. The main condition laid down for these elections is that they could not take place in the presence of any troops on Polish soil except those belonging to the Interallied Commission."

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*Commenting on the above mentioned memorandum, the "Dziennik Polski" (official Polish Government organ in Britain) stated on January 25:*

"It seems that this idea should convince world public opinion. It is a clear and logical idea that puts aside all the discussions and disputes that, as time advances, become more and more confusing and disquieting for the average reader, that is for the 'man in the street.'

"The project clearly declares that liberated Poland should be an object of solicitude on the part of the Allies and that Poland's cause should be clearly presented to world public opinion. There is no other way to assure the freedom of elections and freedom of speech than by putting them under international control and concern, or it will become a hermetically sealed 'sphere of influence.' Either international law will make it possible for the population of Poland to express its will freely, or various substitutes for this will, such as meetings, congresses, resolutions, and demonstrations, are sure to arise.

"The fundamental question can be summed up as this: whether Polish democracy shall be safeguarded from the beginning with the help of such international control, or whether it will be warped and distorted under outside pressure and violence. Poland does not, nor has any reason, to conceal her will or her opinion. Let us hope that the international authorities see for themselves, in good time, this real will and opinion of the Polish people.

"There is only one way in which to have the people of Poland manifest their true will: allow this will to be shown, freely and openly. The Polish Government is not afraid of the results of such elections, because what is being decided is not whether this Government should exert power in Poland in the future. The Polish Government in London has always considered itself only as the homeland's mandatary—as that which is known in the English language as a 'trustee.'

"The London Government has always been willing to transfer its power to those entrusted to it by the homeland. This is the only way by which to stop a policy of 'faits accomplis' and the artificial creation of a 'peoples' will.' If this right is not guaranteed to Poland, it will prove that Poland is to be treated on a level even lower than is Greece. It would also prove that the West is accepting a Europe divided into more and less privileged zones. We firmly believe that this will not happen, because every division of Europe into better and worse zones, into zones where democracy enjoys a possibility of development and zones where democracy is strangled at birth is bound to bring cruel retribution upon its perpetrators."

# THE POLISH REVIEW

Weekly Magazine Published by The Polish Review Publishing Co., with the assistance of the  
Polish Government Information Center, Stanislaw L. Centkiewicz, Editor, 745 Fifth Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.  
VOLUME V, NUMBER 5

FEBRUARY 8, 1945

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*Front Cover: Gniezno Cathedral in Western Poland, founded in the year 1000  
by Boleslaw the Valiant, King of Poland.*

## Polish Prime Minister Pledges Full Equality to Jews

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH J. CANG\*

"IF Jews are to enjoy real equality in the future Poland, as it is our desire that they shall, they must be freely admitted to all positions in political and economic life. They must be given every chance of employment in Government and Municipal services, in factories, mines and on the land. There can be no barrier between Jew and Pole in the future Poland and the Government over which I preside will make no discrimination whatever," Tomasz Arciszewski, Polish premier, declared in a recent interview.

Arciszewski carries his seventy-two years easily. It is hard to believe that he has been a factory-worker, has devoted half a century at least to the bitter struggle for social justice as a workers' leader and in his latter years entered the even more terrible struggle of fighting the invader—living in hiding, working here as a gardener, there as a match-seller, always hunted, always on the run.

Mr. Arciszewski further stated: "As long as I am Premier, I am determined to follow the principle of equality. Jew and Pole must be given equal opportunity." He then went on to elaborate, stating that by equality he meant the opening up of opportunity to them in all walks of life, political and economic.

"The Jewish masses must be given a chance to find employment where they want and work freely and unhindered in the factories, whether state-owned or private. In the future Poland there must exist no barrier, no ghetto, no segregation. And it is only if the Jewish masses are given that chance that the principle of equality can stand its test.

"Take the schools and universities," he continued, "those who can and want to study must have the full chance to do so, Jews and Poles alike. The only test must be ability, not race. The same in the army. There must be Jewish generals as there are Jewish privates. This is how I visualize relations between Jews and Poles."

The Premier paused for a moment. "When I was still in Poland," he continued, "the leaders of all the four Parties signed a declaration in which they supported fully General Sikorski's and Mr. Mikolajczyk's pledges of equal citizenship to the Jews. The leaders of the National Democratic Party also signed this declaration:

announced on August 15, 1943. In March, 1944, it was reaffirmed and again signed by all four Parties.

"Furthermore, when my predecessor, Mr. Mikolajczyk, on my arrival in this country, in conformity with the wishes of the people at home, was discussing the possibility of re-organizing the Cabinet, he obtained a promise from the Nationalist leaders who are in my Cabinet now that they supported the 'Charter of Liberty.'

"Mr. Berezowski, who is in my Cabinet and who signed the declaration for the Nationalists when still in Poland, agreed to Mr. Mikolajczyk's stipulation when there was a likelihood of his entering the Cabinet at that time. The same agreement binds him now, an agreement which also applies to the other Nationalist Minister under me."

I then asked him what steps he proposed to take to implement the guarantee to Jews. What was to be the fate of Jewish property in Poland? Would Jews be allowed to return there freely?

He made a few notes in pencil on his calendar. "I think these matters will be settled satisfactorily and soon. As regards Jewish property in Poland, it was made clear when I was still in the country that all the transactions by which

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*Small town Jews in Poland, painting by Wladyslaw Skoczylas.*

\* Condensed from an interview with J. Cang, editor of THE EUROPEAN JEWISH OBSERVER, London, England, January 5, 1945.

# HOW POLAND MODERNIZED UPPER SILESIA

by ZENON KOSIDOWSKI

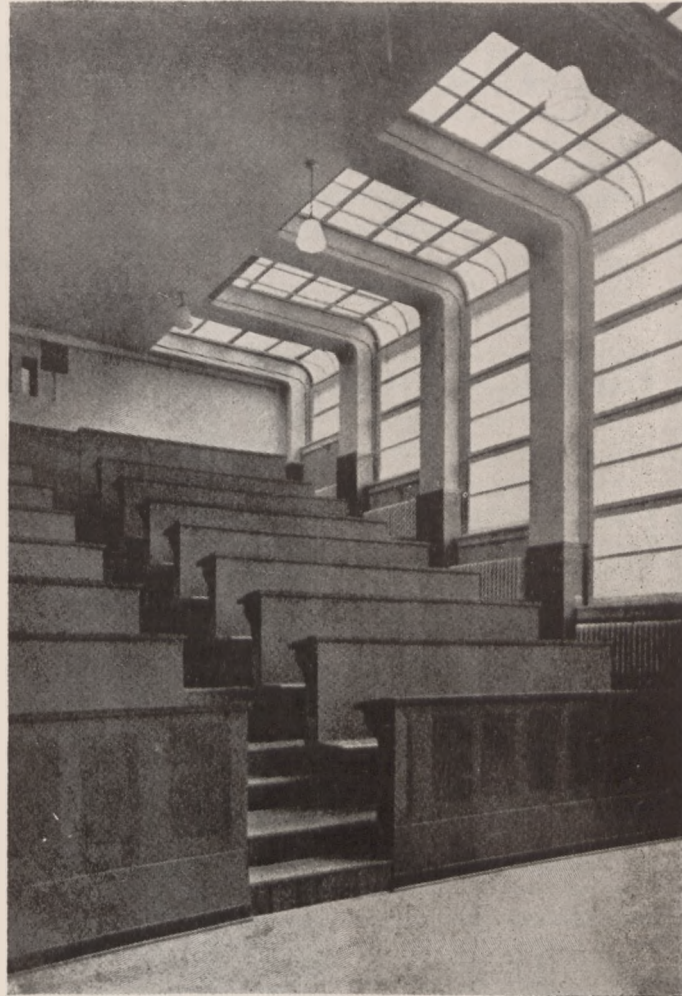
UPPER Silesia, which lies in the southwestern corner of Poland, has some of the richest coalfields in Europe. In 1921, following a stormy plebiscite and the uprising of the Silesian population, this region was restored to Poland by the League of Nations. While preparations for the plebiscite were being made by the Allied Commission, the Germans tried to swing it in their favor by terrorizing the population and importing tens of thousands of so-called Silesians from every part of Germany. For the Germans well knew that the local population that had lived in the region for centuries, was not only Polish but also deeply patriotic.

Polish blood flowed in the streets of Silesian towns. Bands of German hoodlums attacked members of the Polish plebiscite committee. They broke into the homes of Polish miners to scare them into voting for Germany. Desperate, the Polish population was forced to take up arms in self-defense. Three consecutive armed uprisings against the Germans in 1919, 1920 and 1921 finally called the attention of the world to the illegal plebiscite the Germans were preparing.

These uprisings were not only manifestations of patriotic feeling, but were also in a sense social revolutions. Living conditions in Upper Silesia under German rule were terrible. The great coal mines and iron foundries were held by German industrial barons. These industrialists brought heavy economic pressure to bear upon the Polish laboring masses. The Polish coal miner desired to rid himself of this pressure and have better living conditions such as had long existed in industrial towns of Western Nations.

I was in Upper Silesia shortly after its restoration to Poland. The mining towns were dirty and crowded. There was no evidence of modern hygiene or city planning. Palatial residences of German industrialists stood close by the workers' districts with their narrow overcrowded streets and alleys of dark, dank houses. While champagne flowed nightly in German homes and clubs, the real owner of the region, the Polish miner, could only earn enough to buy black bread for himself and his family.

Because of these conditions, Poland was faced with many difficult problems in her newly restored province. First of all, Poland had to modernize the long neglected area by establishing social institutions, rebuilding slum areas and developing the area economically. In addition, the economy of Silesia had to be coordinated with that of Poland. The Polish Government chose the most democratic means by which to make these changes. Upper Silesia was given economic autonomy.



Lecture hall in the Silesian Institute of Technology, Katowice, Polish Silesia, designed by Zygmunt Loboda, architect.

The *Sejm* of Upper Silesia ruled from Katowice, capital of the region. Representatives to this *Sejm* were chosen by the local citizenry through free and unlimited suffrage.

Progress was great during the 18 years of Polish rule.

The production of the coal mines and iron foundries increased substantially. Silesian coal was sold all over Poland and exported to Sweden, England and other countries.

In order to increase production, it was necessary first of all to rebuild the entire existing system of communications in Upper Silesia as well as to enlarge it. As the counties of Bytom and Gliwice had been given to Germany, the entire Silesian railway network was cut in half. In any case, this system had to be redirected toward Poland. Poland not only reconstructed the railway lines but connected them up with the Polish rail system. All railroads in Upper Silesia were also modernized. As the industrial

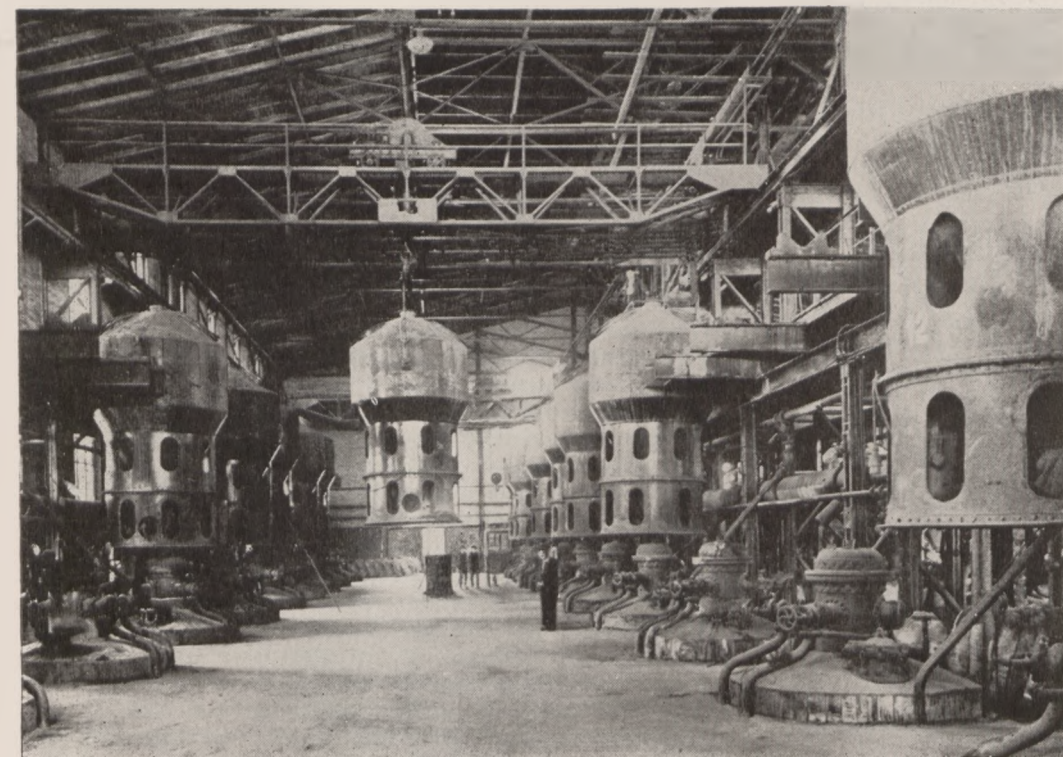
areas were developed, the new railway connections they required were provided for them. A large central station was constructed in the Tarnowskie Mts. region, while large freight car storage yards were built in Czarnolesie. A new railway line was built linking Upper Silesia with Gdynia, the new Baltic port constructed by Poland. This rail connection greatly aided the export of coal to Scandinavian countries and to England.

New roads and motor highways in Upper Silesia were also built by Poland. The Germans had left behind them a totally inadequate, neglected and antiquated system of motor roads. Toward the end of the past decade, however, one could travel the length and breadth of Upper Silesia on excellent new roads and scenic highways well connected by modern bridges. Perhaps the most famous of the latter was the great new bridge that spanned the Vistula River at Golczakowice. Modern motor buses travelling on these highways served the many towns and cities of this thickly populated area.

Progress was, however, most evident in the towns of Upper Silesia. The dirty houses built in the ugly German style of the late 19th century gave way to modern buildings. The towns looked cleaner and happier. Suburban homes and villas surrounded by lovely gardens offered pleasant approaches to the cities. Whole blocks of new houses in the cities presented a pleasing and harmonious unity of modern architecture. The slums maintained by German barons of industry had almost completely vanished by 1939. The guiding theme in this reconstruction of dwellings was the comfort and well-being of its inhabitants whose work brought wealth to Upper Silesia. The Silesian Administration built numerous colonies of workers' homes. Single family houses built at government cost were given to laborers who had 42 years in which to pay for them without down payment. Only one per cent yearly was charged on this deferred payment. Building materials were supplied mainly by Silesian business



Sanatorium for children, Katowice, Polish Silesia, designed by Tadeusz Lobos, architect.



Ammonia factory at Chorzow, Polish Silesia.

enterprises on most liberal terms. The "Society of Workers' Colonies" was instrumental in obtaining these homes for workers under the liberal plan of payment.

Another institution interested in the welfare of Silesian workers was one unknown in the United States. It provided communal gardens that were divided up among the families of laborers and lower paid white collar workers. Each little garden plot had a summer house around which fruit trees and vegetables could be planted. These gardens were usually on the outskirts of Silesian towns and formed connected groups with single watering systems. More than 10,000 such communal gardens were to be found in Upper Silesia before the present war.

In the construction field, the Silesian Government, with the physical welfare of its people in mind, accomplished a great deal. Two excellent communal build-

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City Hall in Janow, Polish Silesia, designed by Tadeusz Michejda, architect.

# "MY CONSPIRATORIAL APPARATUS"\*

by JAN KARSKI

PEOPLE whom I met abroad could not imagine how I could hold a normal office in the Underground. In their vision underground workers met briefly, usually at night, and in dangerous circumstances and eery surroundings. Illumination for these thrilling scenes was supplied by flickering candles. The conspirators wore masks and spoke in tense whispers.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The kind of work we engaged in had to be done by the simplest, most prosaic methods. Mystery and excitement attract attention and perhaps the greatest law of underground work is: 'Be inconspicuous.'

For the most part, our work was probably less thrilling, less of an adventure, than the work of a carpenter, and was wholly devoid of sensational exploits. Some of our men put in endless hours at 'observation points.' Others had the unglamorous job of calling for and distributing the secret press—dull, heavy, fatiguing work that was dangerous enough in the long run, but certainly unexciting. A great percentage of all our work consisted of nothing more than office routine—precise, detailed, following through of scientific, administrative methods. To execute a raid, to keep a secret press in operation, to run a children's school, or to blow up a train requires extensive preparation, careful analysis, the procuring of information from different sources and the co-ordination of scattered activities.

My own apparatus was elaborate. I had four well-equipped organization offices; two for meeting places with military and civilian leaders; one for archives; and the last, in which there were two typewriters and the usual office paraphernalia for clerical work. Among my assistants were two women who did mostly typing, two teen-age boys who served as my liaison men and four well-trained and reliable university graduates who had the status of representatives of my department and were entitled to confer with civilian and military leaders.

The two meeting places were large commercial offices. The owners were perfectly aware that we had rented them for work of a "confidential" nature. The fact that the office building in which we were located was visited by numerous business callers and was properly registered with the German authorities, indeed, actually backed by them, was an inestimable advantage to us. A large traffic of people of all varieties added to the camouflage. Everything was normal and there was nothing at all calculated to attract anybody's attention. Yet, after some time, I went to the additional trouble of securing an engagement, in the firm that owned the office, as an advertising agent. This was an excellent pretext for daily calls at the office.

My archives were hidden in a Warsaw restaurant. The art of secreting documents had reached an incredible level of ingenuity. If the Germans were to institute a campaign to unearth the buried documents of Poland, they would need a whole army of workers to demolish houses, tear out floors and ceilings, and take them apart inch by inch. They would



POLISH HEROES FOUGHT HERE.

German soldiers inspect all that is left of the last positions defended by the Polish Home Army during the tragic 63-day Warsaw uprising that ended on October 3, 1944.

have to dig up a thousand parks by the roots, rip open hundreds of sewers and gas mains and split apart thousands of trees.

My personal office was in a private apartment in a prosperous but quiet building. It was a large, comfortable, steam-heated room. The typewriters were of the noiseless variety, so that they could be used far into the night without complaints. The two women who worked on them were modest in appearance, did not seem particularly interested in what went on about them and attracted no attention whatsoever as they came and went.

My own work was difficult and exacting. Every day I would meet two or three men who were deep in underground work. Our interviews were carried out with constant knowledge that the Gestapo might be hovering about. I had to exchange views with them on scores of topics, explain the attitudes and opinions of other underground leaders and find out their views, reactions, and decisions to communicate back.

To these meetings I often brought a question or an opinion from the Commander of the Army or the Chief Delegate of the Government. I would have to obtain the maximum amount of information from my interlocutors to retransmit.

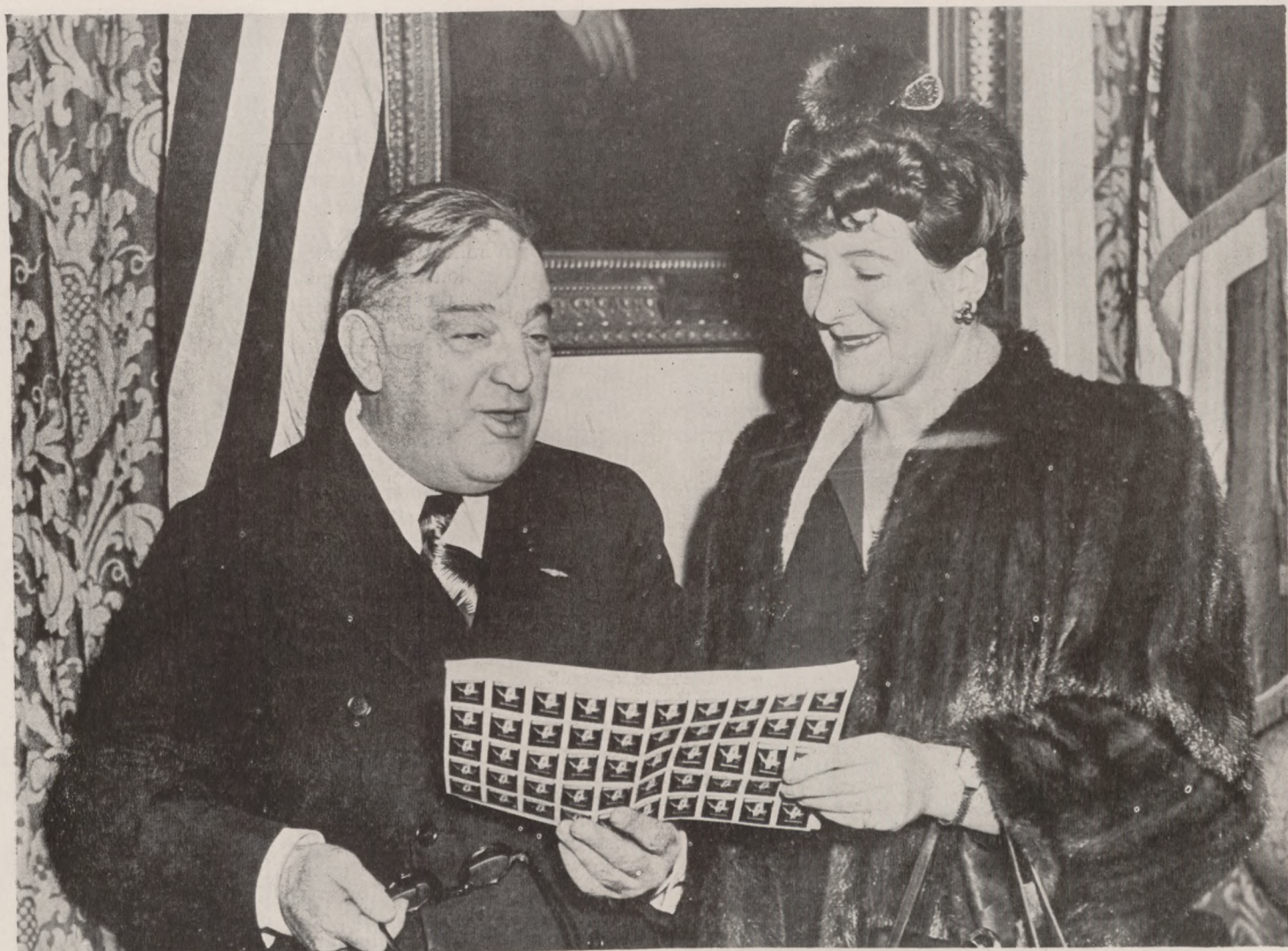
When I was instructed to communicate some "question" and to obtain the reactions and viewpoints of all the leaders, I made an effort to understand it from all angles, grasp the broadest possible implications of a problem.

Some of the problems were thrashed out orally but in the majority of cases I had to prepare reports. These were like any normal administrative reports, numbered, dated, carefully worded. The title was a definition of a given political question. The substance was a terse, clear summary of the viewpoints of the political leaders. In the conclusion, all the elements of agreement and divergence were summed up and an estimate made of the possibility of reaching unanimity. Sometimes copies of the reports were delivered by my liaison

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\* From *Story of a Secret State*, by Jan Karski. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1944. 391 pp. \$3.00.

# Fiorello H. LaGuardia, Mayor of New York, Accepts "REMEMBER WARSAW" STAMPS



Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia accepted on January 18, 1945 the first stamps of the new Polish poster stamp issue called "Remember Warsaw" from Mrs. Sylwin Strakacz, wife of the Polish Consul General, at City Hall.

In presenting this stamp to the Mayor, Mrs. Strakacz praised the heroic insurrection of Warsaw which defied the German invader over a period of 63 days and nights, but was finally left to her fate, succumbing to the barbarous and brutal forces of the

enemy. "We will always remember, Mr. Mayor, in our grateful hearts, your noble effort to save Warsaw from Destruction, your vibrant appeal for help to General Bor and his valiant army," said Mrs. Strakacz. "Warsaw ceased to exist, but once freedom is again restored to Poland, Warsaw will rise again to her former glory, and will remain forever, as in past ages, a bastion of Christian culture, of western civilization and of democracy. And on one of the most cherished pages of Warsaw's history, your inspired appeal made in her behalf, will find a place of honor."

Mayor F. H. LaGuardia indicated that he was deeply honored to have received the first stamp and said that Warsaw had inspired the whole world by the way the people had suffered, through no fault of their own, because of their geographical position.

"Without notice Poland was invaded and the defense of Warsaw did more to retard the advance of the Nazis and make ultimate victories possible than anything that has happened. Had Warsaw not resisted, the whole history of Europe and the world might have been different," declared Mayor LaGuardia. "The unexpected resistance of Warsaw was not in accordance with the Nazis's plan. And then it went through other attacks. Help did not come when help was expected. All these things the world will not forget. Warsaw is great!"

This action on the Mayor's part has been prompted by his close friendship with the former Mayor Stefan Starzynski of Warsaw, who disappeared after September 1939. Warsaw exists no longer as it was razed to the ground after the underground uprising of August and September 1944.

The stamp in question is size 1" x 1 3/8", with a reddish brown background, outlined in white. It was approved by the National Poster Stamp Society and can be obtained at the Polish Government Information Center, 745 Fifth Avenue, at \$.25 per sheet of 50 stamps.

# WHAT'S AHEAD FOR THE POLISH BOOK INDUSTRY\*

by HANNA KISTER



SINCE the liberation of Europe is now progressing at such a rapid rate, it is high time that those of us who have escaped destruction should plan concretely to help restore the means of life in the lands that have been crushed by five years of German domination. How can we assist these people who must start a new life in the ashes of the old? Food, clothing, shelter, these are the first considerations. And of equally urgent importance are books. The famine of books in the occupied lands has been almost as difficult to bear as

physical hunger.

In helping to rebuild publishing in the devastated lands, American industry, if it plans wisely, will not only bring comfort to those who are hungry for the companionship of books but will do much to determine the course of the industry on the continent for years to come.

I will speak more specifically of my native Poland and of

both the immediate and long term needs of our book industry. But first I must tell you something about the development of the book industry in Poland before 1939; about the pulp mills, printing houses and binderies, the booksellers and the types of readers who bought and read our books.

The pulp mills were among Poland's most flourishing industries and made the paper upon which we printed 85% of our publications. Rag paper to the amount of twenty-four million zloty (nearly five million dollars) a year, we imported from England, Finland and Sweden.

Our printshops and binderies—usually they combined both operations—numbered 497. After the liberation of Poland in 1920, the graphic arts reached a high level of excellence, the printers took an active part in all publishing congresses, sent talented pupils to typographical schools and constantly improved their standards until their printing ranked with the best in Europe. They kept pace with Polish advertising which developed the poster to a fine art. The work of such woodcut artists as Skoczylas and Chrostowski was winning prizes in exhibitions of the graphic arts throughout the world. Fine advertising demanded better and better printing machinery. Since Poland did not make this machinery, she bought her linotypes and monotypes chiefly from England and America, and ninety per cent of her presses from Germany.

In bookbinding Poland was at once far advanced artistically and far behind in mass production. Most of the binding was done by hand. Labor was cheap and the Poles, like the French, preferred paper-bound books. Those volumes which their owners wished to keep they preserved in fine hand-wrought bindings of individual design. This custom developed highly skilled bookbinders who handed on their skills and traditions from generation to generation.

Until the beginning of the war Polish readers could not be persuaded to buy bound books. In 1930 our publishing house, *Roj*, tried an experiment. We made several special editions for the Christmas sales, bound in an inexpensive but very attractive leather binding made in Czechoslovakia. We advertised widely but came out of the experiment wiser and poorer by thousands of zloty.

The booksellers of Warsaw, Cracow, Lwow, Wilno and the other Polish cities have a unique place in Polish life. It is they who in Poland's darkest hours throughout the whole



*L'Art Décoratif Moderne en Pologne* Bookbinding by R. Jahoda, Cracow.

of her checkered history have done much to keep alive the flame of patriotism by smuggling to her people books proscribed by Poland's oppressors and thus helping to feed her spirit of resistance. They have always been of such political importance that they were among the first on the German proscribed lists. Before the war Poland had about 1,000 bookstores. Three hundred and fifty of them were first copy shops, comparable to American bookstores which sell new books as they are issued. About two hundred of them carried paper and school supplies and were much like the corner stationers' shops of this country.

We also had ten wholesale houses and a prosperous railway news company. Our booksellers' association was an active organization which, among other activities, conducted a booksellers' school and each year sent one of the best pupils abroad to study bookselling.

But the second hand bookstores which sold rare books, manuscripts, old prints, drawings, were our special pride. Theirs was a splendid tradition. The shops descended from father to son for generations and their owners were among the most highly cultured and active literary minds in Europe. The fame of these shops was univer-



*Dance of the Mountain Brigands.* Bookbinding by S. Radziszewski, Warsaw.

sidered that a good sale was 10-15,000. Our best sellers, and they came along much less often than they do in America, reached 120-150,000 copies.

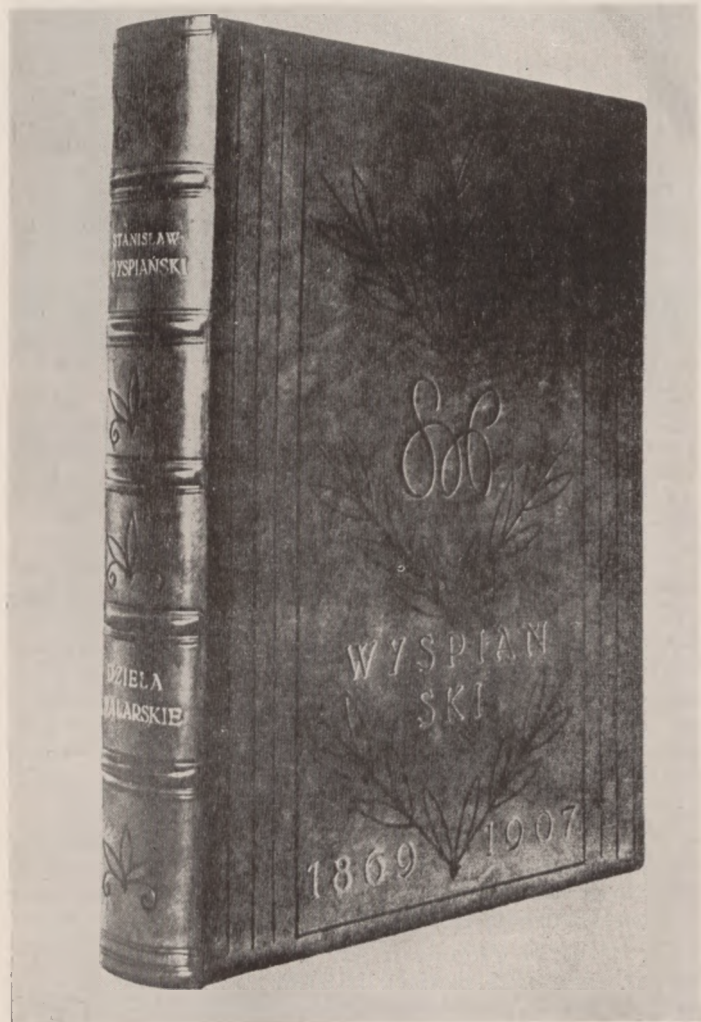
How much of this has been destroyed? We must know in

order to make an estimate of Poland's needs. What happened to the paper mills I cannot tell you, although I do know that Germany took out thousands of trainloads of wood for paper. Almost all of the printing machinery, the Germans took to the Reich, leaving a very few to grind out propaganda. Several days after the occupation of Warsaw I saw German mechanics who had arrived to take down the presses for shipment to the Reich. Often they were the same men who had set them up when they were sold to Poland.

This was also true of the binderies. Of the few machines which had been installed before the war only those were spared which were needed for German propaganda.

The bookstores and libraries were all wiped out. The stock was thrown into the streets. Some of the books were sent back to the paper mills to make new paper,

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*Stanislaw Wyspianski.* Bookbinding by R. Jahoda, Cracow.

sal. Collectors of every nationality looked for their rare books and manuscripts first in the Polish shops.

Most of our libraries were privately owned and could be enjoyed by the payment of a weekly or monthly membership fee. Twenty-six thousand school libraries, however, owned some ten and a half million books.

The issuing of schoolbooks was an important branch of Polish publishing. The elementary schools (seven grades) 28,000 of them, the 800 gymnasiums and lyceums which are comparable to American high schools, the 24 academies and classical universities, were a steady and profitable market for textbooks. The industry published over 1,000 textbooks yearly as compared with 3,500 scientific titles, about 2,000 novels and books of poetry and about the same number of titles in popular editions. We usually printed popular first editions of 1-3,000 copies and con-



*The Book of Tomorrow* by Bronislaw Ostrowski. Bookbinding by Aleksander Semkowicz, Lwow.

\*From *Bookbinding and Book Production*, New York, October, 1944.

# WHAT'S AHEAD FOR THE POLISH BOOK INDUSTRY

(Continued from page 9)

some destroyed by fire, the rest by water, all except the rare books and manuscripts that the Germans fancied. They were added to the loot which the German officers sent home. Not a shop was left except two or three which sold German books. The object of the Nazis was to prevent the Polish people from having contact with such dangerous things as books. They even destroyed the textbooks of the elementary schools. Then the schools were forced to go underground, teachers were compelled to use loose sheets printed by the courageous underground presses, and to circulate them family to family because the children could only meet secretly in small groups.

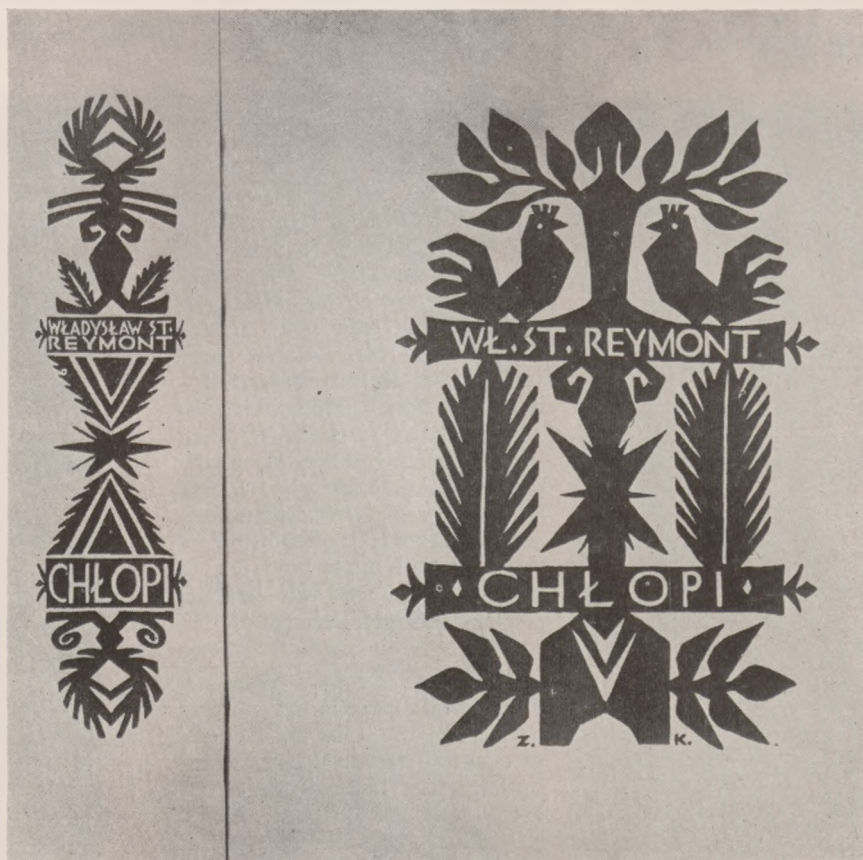
Textbooks are not irreplaceable. We can make newer and perhaps better ones, but the old bookshops of Warsaw and Cracow and Wilno are irreplaceable, both their treasures and the heroic booksellers themselves. Their tradition is not lost but their continuity is broken since most of their owners have given their lives in the service of the underground.

(Our authors and publishers, two important partners, I have not mentioned because I know that as soon as peace is declared, the P. E. N. Club and such organizations will hold conferences for the purpose of aiding their members, and so too will the publishers, who will no doubt resume their yearly conferences at which they will be able to map out organized assistance.)

In this scene of complete devastation how are we to rebuild? What is the first step in clearing away the wreckage and making a new foundation? Let us begin with paper. Despite German attempts to despoil them, Poland has her forests. She will need paper, but only for a year, long enough to rebuild the mills and cut her own wood. UNRRA, I hope, has taken this need under consideration in its plans for occupied countries, recognizing paper as a first necessity ranking with bread, medical supplies and clothing.

As for printing books abroad and sending them to Poland, this seems to me an unsound idea and one which can never solve the problem. How much better to rebuild the workshops and restore to the printers and binders the means of making a living. Germany should be compelled to restore immediately the industry which she destroyed. If her own machinery should be so completely liquidated by the Allies that she will not be able to replace our machinery, she should be assessed an indemnity by the payment of which Polish printing houses and binderies can immediately arrange to purchase machinery on a long term basis from the United States and England. Machinery manufacturers in these countries will understand. I am sure, the necessity for long terms which should not detract from the desirability of this new business and good new market to develop. With this in mind, I am sure that in the future the purchase of machinery from Germany would be discontinued.

An exception to the undesirability of publishing Polish books abroad



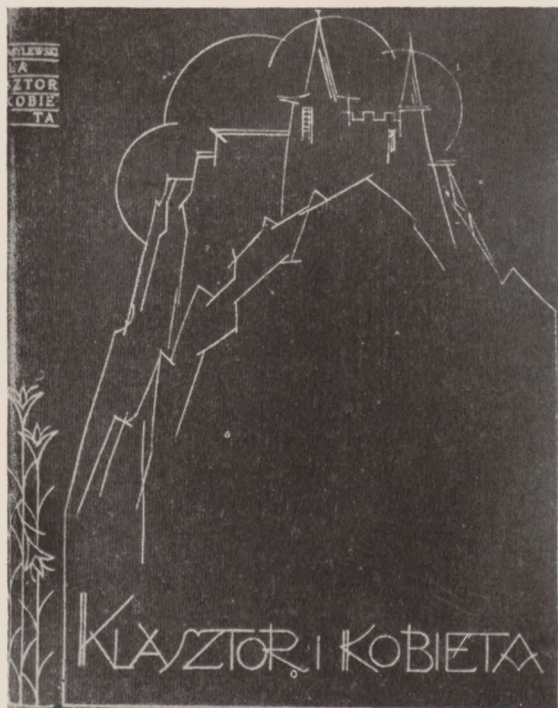
Peasants by Wladyslaw Reymont. Bookbinding by Z. Kominski, Cracow.

should be made perhaps in the case of textbooks for elementary schools. The schools must reopen as soon as possible. This will be a gigantic task. In no other country has the cultural and educational life been so completely destroyed and in none other will there be such tremendous difficulties in the way of restoring normal life. The devastation is so much greater than it was in 1918 that there is no comparison. Our 400,000 children who were enrolled yearly and who have had no textbooks for five years will need 1-2,000,000 books published abroad. The English, American, Polish and Russian educational institutions, I believe, have already made joint plans for this, with the United Nations educational divisions.

There is, however, a way in which good American and English books can be of inestimable value. For some time, Archibald MacLeish, the Librarian of Congress, has been collecting books of every nationality to help restock the despoiled libraries of Europe. Fordham University which has undertaken the rebuilding of the University of Lublin will help replenish its great library.

Such undertakings as these will be heartening to the Poles. During the first stark months when they will be concerned with getting something to eat, finding clothes, building a roof to keep out the weather, they can be im-

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The Convent and the Woman by Stanislaw Wasylewski. Designed by Wladyslaw Skoczylas. Bookbinding by Aleksander Semkowicz, Lwow.

# POLISH TROOPS ON THE WESTERN FRONT



Polish soldiers in a Dutch town.



Poles examine abandoned German gun in woods near Baarle-Nassau, The Netherlands.

# WHAT INTERESTS A SAILOR?

by ARKADY FIEDLER

## THE GOOD AND BAD POINTS OF AN ENGLISHMAN



Everything under control!

WHEN I recently crossed the Atlantic on a Polish freighter in a convoy, I discovered that the favorite conversation topics of sailors, besides politics, are women, the English, and animals.

Our ship that was the commodore's led the convoy and kept a sharp look-out to see that all ships maintain order on the assigned route. It was apparent from his manner and the way in which he gave orders that he was an old seadog. For an Englishman, he was unusually talkative and to the sor-

row of all sailors, frequently gave orders that had to be relayed down the line of ships by semaphore.

He also had an excellent sense of humor. One of the sailors told me that once during a previous voyage in a thick, pea-soup fog, all ships, fearing collision, began blowing their fog-horns frantically and incessantly. When the fog lifted several hours later, the commodore signalled them:

"Ships caught in a fog should act like lions and not like lambs who bawl and lose their heads!"

One day our ship began smoking heavily, a most unpleasant occurrence in a convoy. For a long time our firemen were unable to cope with the situation. The black smoke rolled in our wake straight onto the next ship whose crew finally lost its patience and signalled us pleadingly:

"We beg of you, let us breathe!"

Later, even the commodore himself took a hand in the matter. He asked the engineer laconically:

"Do you have good coal?"

"No," he replied slyly, "it's from Cardiff."

Fortunately the compromising smoke ceased soon after this exchange of signals.

That evening some officers gathered in the cabin of the first mate. I was also invited along. After we exchanged our experiences of the day, the talk got around to the English. Although most of us felt deep affection for them, still at times their conduct puzzled us, so that we made up a lot of jokes at their expense. That was still during the period when we, along with the rest of the world, were rather impatient over their slowness and seeming lack of interest in the war. Our commodore led the lively discussion. Bojka the first officer, who always liked to use highly colored words, described the problem as follows:

"Hitler, like a hysterical monkey, will wear himself out and will shout his lungs full of holes before the English will look around to see what's happening in the world and realize that there's a war on."

One of the officers backed up Bojka, telling of the following incident: "When Churchill was broadcasting the news of Singapore's fall, our ship was in an English port and all of us officers were listening to the radio in our salon. A British port pilot was there with us, dozing on a couch, apparently exhausted from all night duty. One of the Poles awoke him and informed him of the tragic news.

"What? It has fallen? Oh!" he said phlegmatically, yawned and turned over to fall asleep again immediately. All the Polish officers were burned up." And today the English officer in our cabin became their target.

"Well," he said defending the pilot, "what else was he supposed to do? Tear his hair? Or beat his head against the wall and weep?"

Everyone started talking at once. The conversation grew livelier as the evening progressed. Then the captain "took the floor" to relate an adventure of six months ago:

"Our ship was approaching Halifax, plowing through heavy seas in stormy weather, when a British training patrol boat carrying a large number of cadets, burst into flame from a fuel tank explosion and sank. The crew had to jump for lifeboats and rafts, many had to dive into the icy water. Only our ship and a British sub were near enough to attempt a rescue. High waves and poor visibility greatly hampered our work.

"The sailors literally died of the cold. Some got to the very gunwales of our ship and caught hold of rescue ropes when their fingers, numb from cold, slipped off and they sank. Those British boys died without panic, without hysteria, maintaining till the last moment an almost super-



In a Polish Naval officers' mess.



Mascot of Polish sailors.

human calm and discipline. As they met their death, they revealed strength of character and soul that has for centuries been the secret of the might of Britain and the source of Britons' power. It was a most heart-rending experience. Unfortunately we did not succeed in saving many of them. The sub was only able to pull in two, while we saved 18 of whom four died immediately on our deck.

"The death of one young officer touched us especially. We saw him swim up to our ship and grab the rope we had thrown. We had already pulled him out of the water and half way up the ship's side when he suddenly weakened.

"I'm sorry," he murmured, half-smiling at us as if to beg our pardon for all the trouble he had caused, and silently slipped back into the ocean."

That smile of the drowning British officer haunted us all that evening in the mate's cabin.

## SAILORS' CATS AND SEAGULLS

Kingu was a super-cat, the pride of our ship and a real personality (the only real personality on the entire ship, first

officer Bojka assured me). He was the king of beasts, a combination of all the virtues, but without any faults whatsoever. Kingu was wonderful, he was unique and not to be equalled. When one day he disappeared in Manchester (*cherchez la femme, toujours la femme*) the entire crew felt the blow, as if we had all lost our best friend. Undoubtedly Kingu was an unusually good companion. One of the sailors sat down and told us a thousand tales about that little beast. His eyes began to shine and that hardened cynic of the sea, used to spurning the whole world, suddenly melted and became the friend of a four-legged animal with a sincerity rarely found even in human friendships.

Kingu was the undisputed monarch of all hunters. His leaps were almost always infallible in aim, the pounce of his paws always accurate. Rain or storm, frost or hot weather, he hunted ceaselessly. If perseverance is the most important virtue of the hunter, then Kingu was the high priest of the hunt. He was a demon for stubbornness. When he smelled out a rat in some hole, he could lie in wait before it, if need

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## POLISH PRIME MINISTER PLEDGES FULL EQUALITY TO JEWS

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this property has been acquired under German occupation are null and void. No one must enrich himself by the sufferings of the Jews. All such property must and will be returned to the Jewish owners or their relatives. That is the principle to which my Government will adhere. As to the return of Jews, there can be no hindrance whatever—that is what equality means.”

Then we turned to other things. He talked about England, how he had first come to London as a refugee, wanted by the Czarist police for an attempt on the life of a Czarist governor. This was in 1898. He worked for some time in a lamp factory.

“I earned so little that I could afford to eat meat only once a week and lived on fish and potatoes,” he said. “I shared a room with a Jewish worker in Clifton Street, Finsbury. This man used to talk quite a lot about the wealth of the Rothschilds, the great style they lived in and their palaces. Well, here I am in the Rothschild palace.” He shrugged his shoulders indifferently. “What he said to me then meant little to me and less now, but I dare say he would be interested to see me here.”

As I left him, I thought, Yes, one thing is certain, Tomasz Arciszewski, the rugged veteran of Polish labor, the simple democrat, the life-long fighter for social justice and equality will never have much use for palaces.

## HOW POLAND MODERNIZED UPPER SILESIA

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ings became the pride of the region. These were the Physical Training Center and the Sports Palace in Katowice. Great sports stadiums were also built in almost every Silesian town. The largest were in Katowice, Chorzow, Myslowice, Wielkie Hajduki, Swietoslawice, Pszczyna and Lubliniec. Sports parks with athletic fields and swimming pools were also built during Poland's administration of Upper Silesia.

Following the Great War the Silesian Beskids, a mountainous region, that had formerly been under Austrian rule, were joined to Upper Silesia. Famous for their scenery, the Silesian Beskids were covered with forests of coniferous trees through which flowed a number of rivers. Under Polish rule the region became a popular year-round vacation spot. Motor highways and good railroads connected it with Upper Silesia.

Poland had one of the most modern and progressive systems of social insurance in Europe. It guaranteed the worker not only steady income in case of illness or unemployment, but also compensation for his family in the event of his death, as well as vacations with pay, sick leave, and free treatment in state sanatoriums. Health insurance covered every member of the worker's family. This system enabled workers to spend vacations in the Beskid resorts. Among the numerous buildings for purposes of social welfare erected there by Poland was the fine, modern sanatorium in Istebna for tubercular school children. This sanatorium was built overlooking a majestic highland valley covered with a forest of fir and spruce trees. Its windows opened onto a magnificent view of distant mountain peaks and ranges. This institution accommodated 300 children. Other similar institutions were the Sanatorium for War Invalids in Jastrzebie-Zdroj and the Institute for the Blind and Deaf in Lubliniec also for 300 patients with school and residence pavilions, workshops and laboratories.

When Poland took over Upper Silesia, the school system was perhaps the worst feature of social life there. The Germans had carefully and systematically made education difficult

for Silesians in order to denationalize them. There were few school buildings and even those were old and inadequate with respect to sanitation and classroom equipment. Poland immediately undertook the construction of new schools. These became the most modern in all Poland. The most beautiful were those in Bielsko, Mikołow, Lubliniec and Wielkie Piekary. The Silesian Institute of Technology in Katowice offered instruction in road building, railroad construction, mechanics, electricity, science, foundry work and chemistry. Besides class rooms, the Institute had work shops and machine laboratories.

The Silesian population was most eager for education. Numerous educational and cultural organizations for adults sprang up along with reading rooms, people's universities, choirs and amateur theatrical circles. In order to encourage this movement and concentrate it in one place, the Silesian Government built at Katowice a beautiful modern “House of Instruction.” This community building housed the Public Library, the Society of People's Reading Rooms, the Silesian Institute, the General University, the School of Home Economics, and Boy Scout Headquarters.

The many new administration buildings constructed by Poland added to the beauty of Silesian towns and cities. They were in addition symbols of the democratic spirit prevalent in Silesia and the freedom attained by its people under Polish administration. The Silesian Parliament Building of 675 rooms was an outstanding example of construction during the 18 years of Polish rule.

It is not strange, therefore, that residents of Upper Silesia defended their land fiercely when, in 1939, the German hordes swept over the Polish border. Their attachment to Poland and the inflexibility of their spirit were expressed in the groups of Silesian workers who, in September, 1939, barricaded themselves in the Community Theatre in Katowice, and for several days heroically beat off all attacks by German Panzers. They fell during this unequal battle, preferring death to slavery, but their sacrifice was one more example of the Polish spirit that loves freedom above all else.

## “MY CONSPIRATORIAL APPARATUS”

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men to each person with whom I had conferred. Names, places, parties, all other important items were always coded or designated by pseudonyms. My department had two special code systems, one for political, the other for military authorities.

If I stated that there was a strong possibility of unanimity and the men who received the reports confirmed my opinion by initialing their copies and returning them, the matter was considered closed and the report was deposited in the archives as testimony and historic document. These reports of mine also became the basis of the monthly and quarterly political accounts which the Polish Government-in-Exile re-

ceived from the Underground. If no agreement could be reached on a contemplated step or action, the leaders returned the report stressing that they deemed it necessary to have the country's “political representation” called together for the sake of further discussion, or that their refusal was final.

If requests came for a convocation of the “political representation,” they were forwarded to the director of the office of the Government Delegate. The director had the responsibility of setting a time and place for the meeting. Usually he waited till a group of these unresolved questions accumulated before arranging such a meeting, unless he considered the proposal of vital import. I had nothing more to contribute to the problem and I was not informed of the final outcome.

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mensely helped by books in the Polish language that will rekindle a light of hope in their hearts and a smile on their lips, books that will tell them what other people have been doing, what has been happening in other countries while they have been lost in their deep blackout. They will be heartened to learn what other nations have given to the war, how they have fought, what hope they have for the future. Such books as Stettinius's history of Lend-Lease will help them to understand that they have not been alone in the world. Books of humor will encourage them also, as will tales of other pioneers.

But the Poles must make their own books, not only for economic reasons but because we do not know how the people have changed since 1939. We who have escaped their experiences have no way of foreseeing what they will like or what kind of people they will be after this war.

Of one thing we may be sure, the recovery of the graphic arts industry will be rapid. I remember well how it recovered after the first World War. At first we had a great hunger for books but no money with which to buy them nor a place to keep them. First we had to think of houses and shelters. But almost before we had roofs over our heads the first books were on the streets, sold in improvised stalls or

peddled in baskets. They were printed on the cheapest newspaper stock. For four cents a volume—sometimes long novels were printed in several volumes—we could buy the classics which were out of copyright; Hugo, Dickens, Zola, Tolstoi, Anatole France and our own Mickiewicz and Slowacki. A few months later came the ninety-five groszy (20 cent) editions of Chesterton, Jack London, Conan Doyle. By that time our bookshops were rebuilt and so were our houses. Now we had a place to collect a library. The publishers began to issue six zloty (\$1.20) paper editions of Upton Sinclair, Sigrid Undset, Aldous Huxley, Pearl Buck, John Galsworthy, Jacques Maritain, Ilya Ehrenburg, Michel Szolochow, and such popular Polish writers as Henryk Sienkiewicz and Zofia Kossak. We were on our way to recovery.

True, this war is more terrible and devastating than the other, but I know that these people who have survived with such heroism, so much selfless courage, these people who have managed to publish 100 underground newspapers in the very teeth of the Germans and to teach 85,000 children in cellars from loose-leaf lesson books printed leaf by leaf, will be able to help themselves. *Give them the tools to work with and they will rebuild what has been destroyed. They have the courage and the stamina. It is nothing new for them to start from scratch.*

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be, for several days, always with the same result: the rat's death warrant was already sealed.

In addition to these virtues, Kingu had a wonderful disposition. Brought up on the ship, he knew all the sailors it may be said almost by name, and was always eager to play with them. He would look a person straight in the eye, full of confidence and friendliness. A gourmet, he would steal tidbits from the galley, although the cook was his friend and always fed him well.

As every hunter, he was extremely proud of his efficiency, but on the other hand, he was most sensitive to all failures. Besides rats, he had a passion for catching birds that sat on our deck. Once he sprang at a sea gull, missed and on top of it all fell on a sharp box banging himself up badly. He came up onto the bridge looking most glum, hid himself in the darkest corner and fell asleep. When he awoke several hours later, he stretched out cautiously as if to make sure that he had no broken bones. Then he went down on deck. After a little while we heard the blood-curdling cry of a sea-gull. Half an hour later a second scream. Kingu returned to the bridge with feathers on his face. He meowed ostentatiously, demanding water from the watch.

Of the officers, Bojka liked him best of all. Once while romping with the officers, Bojka jostled him lightly. Angered, Kingu bit him hard, for which Bojka gave him a good licking. The offended cat noisily and furiously jumped to the deck. After an hour's sulking, he returned, quiet and crestfallen, hesitating uncertainly on the bridge. Then he approached Bojka and rubbed against his legs, as if to beg his pardon. Kingu had recognized the justice of his punishment.

He was a smart cat and had wormed his way deep into the hearts of the whole crew. Nevertheless, despite their great friendship, the Poles understood the reason for his flight from the ship. He had wanted to disembark in Hoboken, but someone had seen him in time. We all knew what

troubled him when a month later in Manchester he disappeared for good.

"Kingu was the best cat in the world," Bojka declared.

"That's not true, Bianka was the nicest," the captain hotly countered.

She was a Siamese cat, a thoroughbred, very beautiful, well cared for, distinguished, sweet, spoiled and blindly attached to the captain. Most amorous, she would disappear every few months, returning with a new litter of kittens. At such a time everyone, the captain, steward, officers, sailors and she herself would be on edge. Finally after giving birth to a litter, Bianca died, deeply mourned by everyone.

"I'll still take Kingu," Bojka persisted, "he is self-made, working up from the proletariat to the position of a real sailor!"

Sea gulls were the ship's constant companions. They followed our convoy clear across the Atlantic. The beauty of their flight was unparalleled almost like a ballet. It was hard to take one's eyes off them. They were the most charming "dancers," and certainly the most enduring, dancing about the ship even in high winds and gales. The good birds also foretold the weather for the sailors. When the gulls flew in front of the ship, it meant fair weather, but the worst weather could be expected when they sat on the water as if resting before the approaching storm.

The Polish sailors talked willingly and at length about their many attributes and aired the most diverse views on the subject of sea gulls.

Once in mid-Atlantic in a nasty gale, Bojka turned to me with a smile, and indicating gulls flying near the ship, bucking the strong wind, said:

"Look, sir, they're all suckers . . . the smart ones stay in port to sit in bliss by the stove and spend an easy life while those out here fight and break their wings in a storm—pioneers! Crazy suckers!"

Bojka's eyes shone. As I looked at him, I realized that he was in reality speaking of himself and of the crew.

# SO-CALLED "PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF POLAND" PROCLAIMS EXTERMINATION OF POLISH HOME ARMY

The magazine *Time and Tide*, published in London, England, on January 27 stated:

"There is one cause for the acute anxiety of the Poles, which must be a matter of immediate and general concern—the fate of the Polish Home Army after its five years of resolute fighting against German occupation. These men, who are recognized by the British and American Governments as an Allied belligerent force with full combatant status, are being terrorized and hounded as traitors throughout 'liberated' Poland. The commission set up last August in Lublin to investigate anti-Soviet activities in Poland has accepted the mere fact of membership in the Home Army (or service in the Polish Underground State) as proof of anti-Soviet activities.

"Reports of Home Army units being arrested and disarmed and their members shot or deported have grown too numerous and too detailed to be discounted. One of the most callous cases was the incarceration of two hundred officers and non-commissioned officers (subsequently deported to Russia) and over 2,000 men of the Polish Home Army in the infamous former German concentration camp at Majdanek. Even in September, in an area under the administration of the Lublin Committee, there were five concentration camps for Poles. Since the Com-

mittee took upon itself the status of a Provisional Government, statements from Lublin have made it painfully clear that a policy of extermination of the Home Army is to be relentlessly pursued. Bierut and Osobka-Morawski, the so-called President and Premier of the puppet regime, have announced their intention of extirpating 'traitors, bandits, incorrigible malefactors and brawlers' of the Home Army and have declared that the Government will not hesitate to take most severe measures to stamp them out. The decree calling for the rounding up of 'irreconcilable members of the Polish Home Army' and of followers of the legal Government and naming General Bor, Polish Commander-in-chief and leader of the Warsaw rising, brazenly claims that 'his provocative rising and later surrender of arms considerably helped the Germans.' The Committee which utters decrees of such ironic insolence is the body which the Soviet Government is pressing the Czechoslovak and French Governments—so far without success—to recognize as the Provisional Government of Poland. In view of this black record, we trust that British authorities are bearing in mind the large number of Polish prisoners of war, among them Home Army personnel taken in the Warsaw rising, who are with British prisoners in camps lying in the path of the Soviet advance."