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Dr. Mott in Gdynia.

The Gdynia YMCA has just rented the 35 room hotel shown in the background of the picture to use as its quarters until it can finance and erect its own building upon a lot already secured in the center of the city.

Right to left: Mr. Antoni Wojcicki, general secretary of the Gdynia YMCA; Mr. Julian Rummel, president of the board; Dr. John R. Mott. Extreme left, Mr. Alexy Radel, the young man who organized the Gdynia Association six years ago.

Dr. John R. Mott in Poland

If one were to write a list of the Americans who have done most for Poland since its reappearance among the nations in November 1918, three names would have to head that list, and stand in a group all by themselves. These names are Woodrow Wilson, Herbert Hoover, and John R. Mott. I first heard this stated in 1924, when the governor of the Lodz province in introducing Dr. Mott at a dinner in Poland declared that these three names would always live in the minds of the Poles.

The huge work for Polish soldiers set up in 1919 under Dr. Mott's leadership and financed with money raised by him made an enduring impression upon the nation. Nearly 20 years have passed but the memory has not faded. It was extensively referred to in the press during Dr. Mott's recent visit. Minister Beck spoke of his own personal profit from that service when a soldier in the war with the Bolsheviks in 1920. A vice-minister spoke of it to me only a few days ago when I asked him to join the Warsaw YMCA, an invitation he at once accepted. That work, conducted at 90 different points, is a permanent star in the crown of the American YMCA. The highest of all Dr. Mott's foreign decorations is his "Polonia Restituta" star.

It is interesting that the two of the above men who are living have visited Poland during the early months of this year. Of the dates of Dr. Mott's visit we received notice only three days before he arrived, but most successful visits were at once set up in Warsaw, Lodz, and Gdynia.

In Lodz and Gdynia we chose to make Dr. Mott's visit relate strictly to YMCA events, especially our building enterprises in these cities, but in the capital, in addition to inspection of and meetings in the huge building of the Warsaw YMCA, now completed and fully financed at a cost of over \$900,000, official visits and functions were an important part of the two days program. These included a full hour with the President of the Republic, visits to the Prime Minister and to Foreign Minister Beck, and an official dinner given jointly by the Foreign Office, War Office, Ministry of Social Welfare, and Ministry of

(Cont. in column at the left)



The President of Poland, Dr. Moscicki, with Admiral Unrug, president of the Council of the Gdynia YMCA, on board one of the Polish war-ships in the Gdynia Harbor.



The President of Poland receiving Dr. John R. Mott and Dr. Tadeusz Dyboski. Right to left: Dr. Moscicki, President of the Republic of Poland, Dr. John R. Mott, world-wide YMCA leader, and Dr. Tadeusz Dyboski, president of the Polish YMCA.

Jan Matejko 100th Anniversary

Poland is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jan Matejko, who was born in Krakow, July 28, 1838, the painter whose magnificent canvasses depict the great events in Polish history in a way which has been equalled in few lands and by but few painters. Almost every significant event in Polish history has been portrayed by Matejko, and not on the basis of fanciful imagination but after the most accurate and painstaking study of architecture, documents, costumes, and personalities; so that literally to know Matejko is to know Polish history.

Many of these canvasses are 15 ft. to 25 ft. long. They are masterpieces of composition and drawing, rich and satisfying in color, full of spirit, life, and action. In the little space available in such a bulletin as this it is impossible adequately to represent this man and only a hint of his achievements can be given.

The exhibition now open in the National Museum in Warsaw beautifully represents Matejko's method of work; careful drawings of individual figures and costumes, then preliminary drawings of the total composition, then a preliminary sketch either in sepia or in color, and finally the whole painting beautifully rendered.

An interesting thing to study in Matejko's paintings is the method by which he catches the very second of action. Further, the detailed study of the faces in his compositions is highly interesting and rewarding.

I am particularly fond of his drawings and small-size sepia and oil sketches made in preparation for his great canvasses. His completed works are often reproduced, so probably the most interesting thing we can do here is to present two copies of these fascinating sketches in oil.

Education. The absence of Marshal Smigly-Rydz, "first honorary member of the Polish YMCA", prevented a visit with the Marshal, whom Dr. Mott had met at the front in 1920 during the Polish war with Russia.

Dr. Mott's visit gave us a great lift. As to the effect upon him, aside from his appreciation of the honors he received here, four aspects of the work of the Polish YMCA drew special comment from him: The three splendid buildings, two of which he saw, teeming with life; the work for poor boys, which he called a model and example for other countries; the long-term plans which both guide and characterize the development of the Polish YMCA; and the strong financial support the Association receives from Polish sources.

When the American YMCA liquidated its war work in Poland in 1922, I came to Poland at Dr. Mott's request in response to the petition of the Poles for help in establishing their own YMCA movement. It was a joy to show Dr. Mott how the Poles have proved they really want a YMCA. Three of the largest YMCA buildings in Europe, several other good Associations, many thousands enrolled in programs in these buildings, the full expense of all local work borne by Poles, three modern and self-supporting camps, and a movement probably excelled by no other YMCA movement in the hold it has upon the nation and its chief leaders.

34,534,000 inhabitants

The latest official statistics show this to be the present population of Poland.

Pictures reproduced by the courtesy of the Matejko Exhibition in the National Museum in Warsaw. Left: Sepia sketch, oil, for "Ivan the Terrible". Right: Sketch in oil colors, "Rejtan", scene following the first partition of Poland of 1772.



