

**POLAND AND AMERICA
ALLIANCE IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM**

Welcome to Poland



The Pulaski Parade in New York is an annual celebration that takes place on the first Sunday in October. It is one of the largest Polish events in the United States.

The Parade is an opportunity to honor the memory of General Casimir Pulaski, a hero of the struggles for independence of Poland and the United States.

Numerous Polish-American bands, orchestras and bands perform during the Parade. You can also admire military vehicles, historical and contemporary, on the streets of New York.

The Pulaski Parade is an opportunity to celebrate Polishness and promote Polish culture in the United States. It is also an event that integrates the Polish community in New York and around the world.

Official partner



**POLISH
NATIONAL
FOUNDATION**

I love Poland



Grzegorz Zasepa, editor-in-chief. Super Express: - Pułaski, as it is known, is one of our great national heroes, and perhaps even greater for America. Unfortunately, not everyone here overseas knows that he was Polish. How can we change this?

- Prof. Piotr Gliniski, Minister of Culture and National Heritage:

- It is true that we have a lot of catching up to do when it comes to building Poland's image abroad. This is not just about Pułaski, but about very many people or phenomena, parts of our history, such as Polish solidarity. We are trying to change that. We have new institutions trying to shape Poland's image abroad, such as the Polish National Foundation, which, by the way, has a presence in the United States. It co-sponsored the creation of the Museum of Victims of Communism, which is located in downtown Washington, near the White House. It also regularly supports the so-called Polish Nights organized by our basketball player, former NBA player Marcin Gortat. We are trying to notice this problem and gradually change this reality.

- Our other Polish-American hero is Tadeusz Kościuszko. There is no shortage of monuments, streets or bridges named after him in the US....

- As for Kościuszko, we produced a feature film about him. Pułaski probably deserves a movie as well. However, the ministry is not a substitute for artists. It is worth noting that the only Pułaski Museum in Poland, located in Warka, Pułaski's

birthplace, has been co-managed or co-funded by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage since 2018. Once a modest county institution, it is now a serious museum of national importance, successful in terms of visitor numbers, interesting exhibitions and educational programs. On the other hand, it is true that Poland is still catching up in building our image abroad. Arrears from the times of the People's Republic of Poland (PRL), but also from the Third Polish Republic (III RP). We don't have the same kind of PR machine as, for example, Germany. But we are active. For example, the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, one of our institutions promoting culture abroad, has organized a competition on American campuses for a musical about Ignacy Jan Paderewski. The winning design was later exhibited in Poznań and Warsaw. The aforementioned Polish National Foundation is also doing a huge amount. About 10,000 American troops are stationed in Poland. They are part of the „Zwiastun” [Herald] program, which involves these soldiers participating in events related to Polish history and visits to cultural institutions. I met them, for example, on August 1 at the Powązki cemetery or at the Polish military parade on August 15. They also regularly visit Warka. Then they learn that Casimir Pułaski, who they knew from the US, was Kazimierz Pułaski - a Polish nobleman and hero.

- We'll get to the Foundation later. You mentioned Paderew-

What steps is the Polish government taking in building a positive image of Poland? Is Polishness still attractive and beautiful? What can every Pole do to promote their homeland? These and other questions are answered by Professor Piotr Gliniski, Minister of Culture and National Heritage, in an interview with Grzegorz Zasepa, editor-in-chief of Super Express.

ski, you probably know that he was one of the initiators of the Pułaski Parade in New York. How do you think that for 85 years the Poles have managed to mobilise thousands of people every year and hold a parade on 5th Avenue - the center of the world? That their Polishness is manifested even by the descendants of 19th-century emigrants....

- Because Polishness is attractive and beautiful. The parade is a great value and refers to the very thing that unites us. The attitude and commitment of the Polish-American community deserves admiration. I recently met with a representative of the Association of Highlanders in the US. He said that although the next generations living in America are losing touch with the Polish language, they are still active in various Polish organizations, sing in folk music groups and participate in Polish community events. And that keeps their Polish identity alive. Identity is important to all of us because it gives strength to the national community as a whole, as well as to its individual members. It allows us to compete on a global scale. And the modern world is highly competitive. To succeed in this competition, one must also nurture their Polish identity.

- Polish citizens living abroad have the right to vote. It's not necessarily as straightforward when it comes to other nations. Should the Polish diaspora be given the opportunity to participate in elections?

- Of course. We should try to get as many people to vote as possible, because those who vote have the formal right to vote. That is, they are Polish citizens. Every Polish citizen should be able to vote. I would even go further: they should vote because it is a civic duty. Of course,

everyone has the freedom to make their own decision on this matter. However, my opinion is that everyone should be involved.

- You mentioned the Polish National Foundation. It had a very difficult beginning, a very bad press in Poland. What is your assessment of PNF after several years?

- It had a difficult start, because we as Law and Justice, as the United Right, had a very difficult start in general. One of the reasons for this was that the other side, with a very strong and aggressively politically engaged media, tried to destroy us with propaganda. Also through malicious PR abroad. It is as if the results of democratic elections were not recognized, we were denied democratic legitimacy, our mandate. This has also backfired on the Polish National Foundation. The incredible thing is that when we want to fight for the Polish image, to build institutions that are the Polish raison d'etat, we are very strongly attacked by some media and opposition. These circles are often, to put it mildly, simply acting on behalf of foreign interests. The Germans are not happy that Poland is building entities like the Polish National Foundation. The Germans have their own foundations operating in Poland, and they are the ones who, according to them, should play a major role. For example, to finance opposition activities, as happened recently. Besides, it's not the first time. This is the unpleasant reality. We are just making up for lost years by building our own institutions. For example, the Ministry of Culture and Heritage has also set up the Polonica Institute, which deals with Polish cultural heritage abroad. This applies mainly to Western museums, archives and libraries, but also

to Polish monuments and memorabilia around the world. We support more than 30 institutions around the world, including the Pilsudski Institute in New York and the Polish Museum in Chicago. We passed a change in the law that will permanently fund some of them directly from the state budget. Until now, we have only been able to do this through grants and programs, such as the Sikorski Institute, Maissons Lafitte or POSK. Now we can do it systematically and directly from the budget. The first such institution to be systematically co-managed and financed by my Ministry is the famous Polish Library, founded in Paris in 1838.

- PNF is often criticized for its purchase of the I Love Poland yacht. Do you think this project was justified?

- I do not at all understand this attack, which is linked - originally - to Mateusz Kusznierewicz's program. He is Poland's most prominent sports sailor, with great image potential. He approached the PNF with a cruise project to promote Poland in ports around the world. The United States, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, as well as France, Spain and Italy use the regatta to promote their countries. Millions of people around the world are interested.

- But you must admit that these are expensive ventures.

- Very expensive. And that's why the Polish National Foundation didn't immediately jump into the America's Cup (the most prestigious sailing race in the world - ed.), but we started with a yacht that had already won 11 different oceanic races and had trained about a thousand people in sports and oceanic sailing. These young people continue to lead the project. I have never sailed on that yacht, because of course there would be an uproar about a politician sailing at the public's expense. I saw it once, in the shipyard, when it was being overhauled by these young sailors. They worked at it themselves. I am truly honored to be able to support such a project, and yet I hear criticism. Some people don't understand that Poland's return to the sea was about maritime education. I recently heard that this yacht is not Polish at all, because it is not made in Poland. It's like accusing Robert Kubica of not driving a Syrena [an old Polish car model]. We withstand these attacks. I'm as proud of the yacht as I am of the Harbinger pro-

gram. Thanks to it, 10,000 American soldiers are learning about Polish history.

- Okay, but once they have this information, what do they do with it?

- What do you mean what? In a way, they become ambassadors for Poland. Better than many diplomats. Not only will they discover that Poland is a cool country, easy to love and easy to like, they will also learn something extra about the soldier's ethos, because our history is full of this ethos. By learning about our history, they will better understand our attitude towards the East, the West and the various interferences in our internal affairs.

- If you were to encourage an American to come to Poland, how would you do it?

- First of all, I would say that it is a country with a beautifully diverse nature, still pristine in places. And an equally beautiful culture, full of freedom and tolerance. But I would also stress that it is currently the safest place in Europe. And for Americans, it may be particularly important that Poland is an economically prosperous country. Our economic growth was the highest in recent years - 34%. It's remarkable how far Poland has come on the road to economic development. Despite the pandemic, the war and the unfavorable political situation, the Polish economy is doing remarkably well. For Americans, business is fundamental, so this can be attractive. Beautiful, well-maintained roads, charming towns and villages, a moderate climate, splendid cultural investments, museums - you're welcome to visit!

- Do you know America well?

- I was close to living in the United States.

- How so?

- It's such an American story. In the 1980s, I wrote a doctoral dissertation that was not published for censorship reasons. It was a punishment for my opposition activities. And in the late 1980s, two well-known American professors, Seymour Martin Lipset and James



Prof. Piotr Gliniski Minister of Culture and National Heritage and the board of directors of the Podkarpackie region - Marshal Władysław Ortyl and Deputy Marshal Bogdan Romaniuk at the headquarters of the Ulma Family Museum of Poles Saving Jews during World War II in Markowa



Pułaski and Kościuszko in the fight for American freedom



During the Bar Confederation Pułaski fought in the defense of Czestochowa



Museum of Kazimierz Pułaski in Warka - a painting depicting the general's death at the Battle of Savannah

Kazimierz Pułaski - a born commander

Kazimierz Pułaski (1745-1779), one of Poland's most distinguished military commanders, was a staunch patriot and supporter of freedom. In 1771, during the Bar Confederation, Pułaski was one of the Confederate commanders who planned an assassination plot against King Stanislaw August Poniatowski. The assassination plan was foiled, and Pułaski was forced to flee Poland.

Pułaski never admitted his involvement in the King's assassination plans, but his participation in the Bar Confederation and his anti-monarchist views suggest that he was prepared for such an action. It should be remembered that the Bar Confederation was a resistance movement against Russian intervention in Poland, and Pułaski was convinced that King Poniatowski had collaborated with the Russians. In this context, the King's assassination plan can be seen as a patriotic act and a fight for Polish freedom.

Kazimierz Pułaski came to America in 1777 at the invitation of French General Lafayette, who was his friend. The French-

man was convinced that Pułaski could be a valuable acquisition for the US Army. Pułaski joined the Continental Army as a volunteer. He almost immediately took part in the Battle of Brandywine (September 11, 1777). Despite his young age, he already had considerable combat and organizational experience, leading enlistments, forming and training troops in Poland.

The British army led by General William Howe attacked American troops commanded by General George Washington. The Americans were taken by surprise. Pułaski arrived on the battlefield at the last minute, when the American army was already retreating. Pułaski formed a cavalry unit and attacked the British from behind. The attack was unexpected and effective. He managed to force the British to withdraw. His bravery saved George Washington's life, for which the latter promoted Pułaski to the rank of brigadier general of the US Cavalry „on September 15, 1777. „ Boston Gazette” of October 2, 1777 wrote about Pułaski as follows „A very large number of French officers took part in

the action. The Marquis de la Fayette combined with courage, using his good birth and kind character. Polish Count Pułaski with part of the light cavalry rode up to the enemy positions for reconnaissance.”

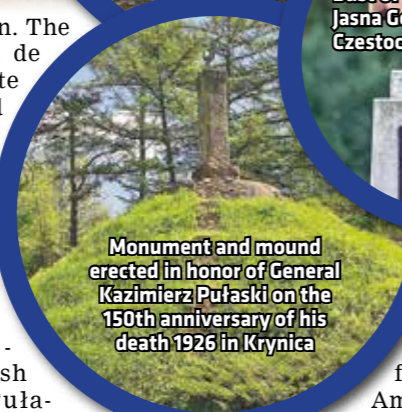
Pułaski was convinced that Polish emigrants could contribute to the victory of the Americans. He proposed forming a cavalry unit composed of Polish soldiers. Congress agreed to the proposal and on August 13, 1777 Pułaski was appointed brigadier general and given command of the Pułaski Legion. The legion consisted of 200 light infantry soldiers and 68 lancers. He was well trained and equipped. Pułaski was a talented commander and his unit quickly gained recognition in the US Army.

The Battle of Germantown, fought on October 4, 1777, was part of the fall campaign of the American War of Independence. Pułaski commanded a 200-man cavalry unit as part of the American army led by General George Washington in that battle. He attacked the British rear, forcing the British to withdraw from the battlefield. Pułaski's attack was effective, but did not bring final victory to the Americans. The battle of Germantown ended in a draw.

Kazimierz Pułaski died a few days later at the Battle of Savannah on October 11, 1779. Pułaski led a cavalry charge and was shot in the stomach. Back then, such a wound was usually fatal. An infection set in, and Pułaski died in agony two days later.



Lounge in the Kazimierz Pułaski Museum in Warka in the former Pułaski Palace



Monument and mound erected in honor of General Kazimierz Pułaski on the 150th anniversary of his death 1926 in Krynica

Kazimierz Pułaski and Tadeusz Kościuszko are two Polish heroes of the struggle for American independence. Both came to America shortly after the Declaration of Independence. Kościuszko was the chief engineer of the American army, and his fortifications played a crucial role in the American victory over the British. Pułaski became a general of the US cavalry. He organized and commanded the Pułaski Legion, which fought in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown and Savannah and became the core of the US cavalry.

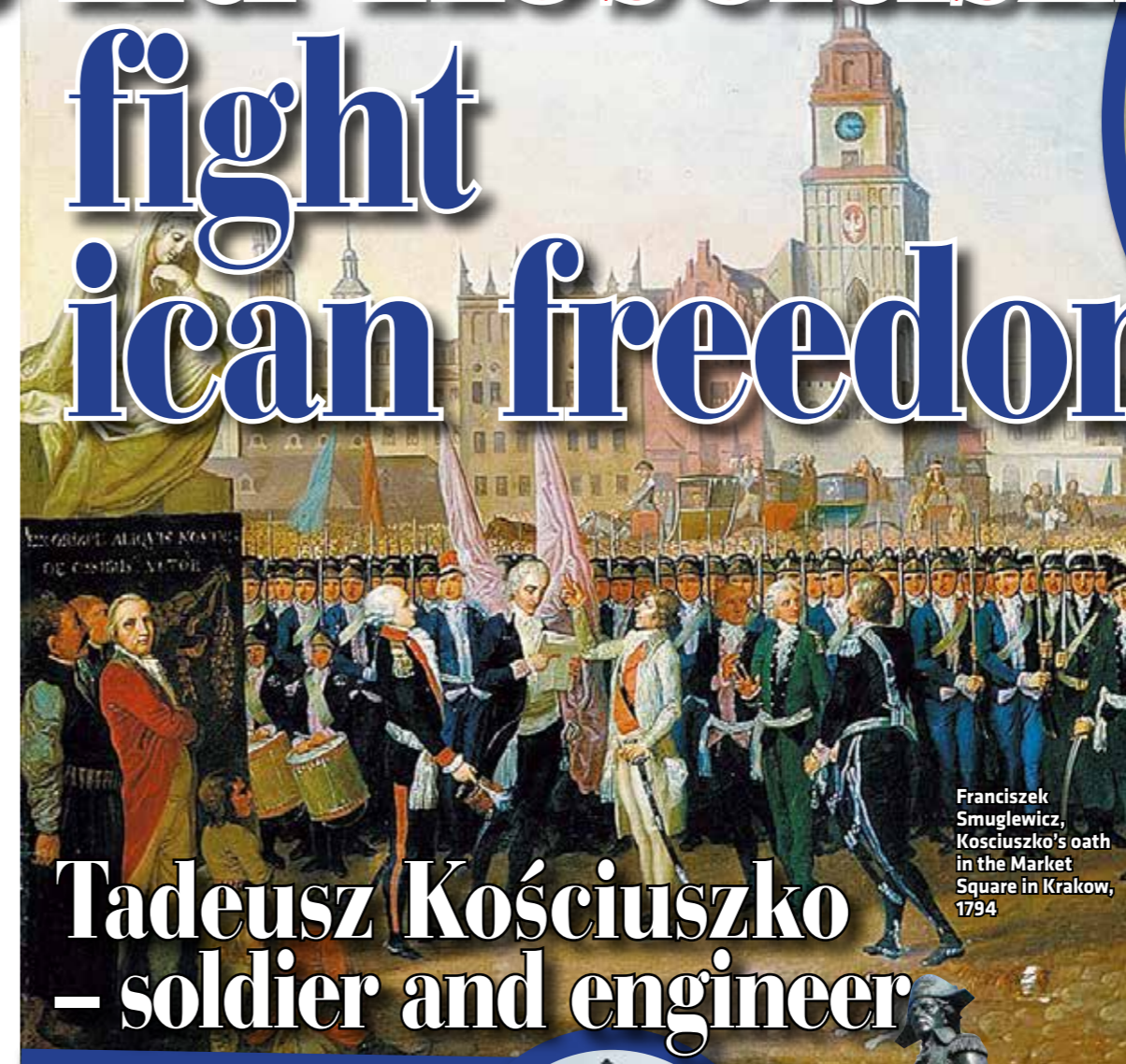
ADRIANNA OSTASZEWSKA



Busts of Pułaski and Kościuszko at the Warka Museum



K. G. Schweikart, Portrait of Tadeusz Kościuszko, 1802



Franciszek Smuglewicz, Kościuszko's oath in the Market Square in Krakow, 1794

Tadeusz Kościuszko - soldier and engineer

Tadeusz Kościuszko (1746-1817) received his engineering education at the Corps of Cadets School in Warsaw, graduating in 1769. Founded by King Stanislaw August Poniatowski, the school prepared officer cadres for the Polish Army. Its program included military engineering subjects such as fortification, artillery and construction. Kościuszko excelled in his studies and was one of the school's best students.

The fortifications Kościuszko planned and implemented were crucial to American victories in many battles, including the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777, which is considered a turning point in the War of Independence. Kościuszko designed a fortification and entrenchment system that enabled the Americans to halt the British advance on the Hudson River. This victory encouraged the French to join the war on the American side. Kościuszko's most famous fortifications include those of Ticonderoga, West Point and Saratoga. Tadeusz Kościuszko quickly rose through the ranks of the US Army. In 1777 he was appointed brigadier general and assumed command of Fort Ticonderoga. He designed and built new fortifications. In 1778, Kościuszko assumed command of Fort West Point. It was a key strategic point and its capture by the British could have ended the war. Kościuszko designed and built new fortifications that strengthened the Fort's defenses.

After graduating from the Corps of Cadets School, Kościuszko went to study abroad. From 1770 to 1774, he studied at the Academy of Engineering in Paris. There he learned civil engineering: construction, plumbing and urban planning. He deepened his knowledge at the Royal Guard Cavalry School in Versailles, near Paris, where he was taught by Didier-Gregoire Trincano, the author of innovative fortification ideas that differed from the commonly accepted bastion concept.

Tadeusz Kościuszko arrived in America in August 1776. He came to Philadelphia where he was appointed Chief Engineer of the US Army. Soon Kościuszko was working on fortifying Philadelphia, which was the main political center for colonists at the time. How did a young military man who spoke no English and had no experience in war get such a responsible position?

Kościuszko was fortunate that he managed to contact Benjamin Franklin. He examined the young officer thoroughly. Kościuszko had to demonstrate his knowledge of military engineering and fortifications, among other things. Franklin was impressed by Kościuszko's knowledge and recommended him to work for the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety. Franklin, a brilliant self-taught engineer, was one of the most influential men in America, and his support helped Kościuszko become Chief Engineer of the US Army.

Franklin held Kościuszko in high esteem. In a letter to Thomas Jefferson in 1778, he wrote: „Kościuszko is one of those men who has all that it takes to be a great man.”



Kościuszko's mound in Cracow



Kościuszko monument in West Point,...



...in Detroit,...



...in Washington, DC

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Ryszard Kukliński
- a Pole who helped
the US defeat
the Soviet
Union

In 1964, Ryszard Kukliński (1930-2004) was assigned to work in the Operations Directorate of the General Staff of the People's Army, overseeing operational planning. There he had access to secret Warsaw Pact documents, including plans for war against NATO.

Terrifying knowledge
The plans called for aggression by Warsaw Pact troops against NATO countries. Kukliński was convinced that if there was a war, Poland would be destroyed. „The knowledge of what was going to happen when the war started was terrifying,” Kukliński said. Therefore, he decided to act to stop the conflict.

In 1972, the Polish officer established contact with American intelligence. He was given the code name Jack Strong and begins to systematically pass on information. Over the next nine years, he handed over 40,000 pages of secret Warsaw Pact documents to the Americans, including war plans, information on military deployments and the defense-technical power of communist countries.

Tough negotiations
At the 1986 US-Soviet summit in Reykjavik, President Ronald Reagan proposed the complete elimination of intermediate-range missiles (SSM) from Europe. In return, he agreed to limit the number of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs).

Gorbachev initially agreed to Reagan's proposal, but later backed down when Reagan demanded the withdrawal of SS-20 missiles from Eastern Europe. In the Reykjavik talks, Reagan used information from Kukliński to emphasize the threat from SS-20 missiles. Kukliński gave the American maps that detailed the deployment of these missiles in Eastern Europe.

With the information from Kukliński, Reagan was able to make a convincing argument to Gorbachev. The Reykjavik summit was a turning point in the Cold War. This was the first time that the two superpowers have come close to an agreement on nuclear arms reduction. The impact of Kukliński's information on this process was significant.

Merit recognition
In a report to President Reagan, CIA Director William Casey wrote: „No one in the world has done more damage to communism than this Pole. In recognition of his service, Ryszard Kukliński was awarded the Distinguished Intelligence Medal by US President Ronald Reagan in 1982 for exceptional service.

Ryszard Kukliński was posthumously awarded the Order of the White Eagle. AES

Matejko - the portraitist of Polish pride



„Kosciuszko at Racławice” (Battle of Racławice), 1888

This nation and its leader
The newly opened National Museum in Kraków wanted to buy „Sobieski at Vienna,” but in the end Matejko sold it „Kościuszko at Racławice.” The artist was entering his fifties when he sketched „Kościuszko at Racławice.” Despite his stomach problems, he went to see the battlefield. Sick and treated by a quack who nearly sent him to the grave, he continued to work hard. He had to pay for his wife's care in a psychiatric hospital and pay off his brother Edmund's debts. Not to mention maintaining a home and supporting a distant family. A letter has survived in which Matejko admits that „it would be much more pleasant for an artist to photograph scenes with a golden glow. But since all the people here have expressed their desire to have me commemorated, the artist is compelled to sacrifice his ambition and paint what pleases the people most, that is, this people and its chief on a grey canvas.” Ultimately, however, he skillfully blended the canvas with the golden mane, creating his characteristic turmoil in the painting. The painting is a rebus with encrypted symbolism of Polish conflicts. „Painted in 1888, „Kościuszko pod Racławicami” depicts the battle that took place on April 4, 1794 during the Kościuszko Uprising. Tadeusz Kościuszko, dressed in an American uniform, is in the center of the painting. Kościuszko leads a peasant cavalry attack against Russian artillery. In the background you can see fighting soldiers and peasants, as well as burning villages.

The painting measures approx. 15 x 30 feet. Matejko depicted the battle in a dynamic and dramatic way. „Kościuszko pod Racławicami” is considered a symbol of Polish patriotism and the fight for freedom. The artwork is on display at the Kraków Cloth Hall.



Jan Matejko in the lens of Jules Mien, before 1883

He became famous as a painter of multifaceted historical scenes. His dynamic, finely arranged images are full of passionate pathos. The intense colors, well-captured surface texture, and the compelling appearance of the figures made him a portraitist of Polish pride.

Jan Matejko (1838-1893) was born in the center of Kraków and lived for many years in a tenement house at 41 Florianska Street, where he also had a studio. Even at a young age, he was treated as an artist and surrounded by the nimbus of a great artist. He was serious and carried himself like the old masters. He was always busy, gaunt, thin, bearded, pale as a primed canvas. With a complicated marital situation, paying off his brother's debts, burdened with numerous offspring. Jan Matejko died at the age of 55, on November 1, 1893, from a ruptured stomach ulcer.

EWA JABŁOŃSKA

Painter of the great and good
Matejko used reliable historical sources for his paintings: he studied archaeological excavations, travelled to battlefields and, with the passion of a museum professional, reproduced the details of period costumes - from spurs and pins to headgear. But he always rejected the slightest crack in Poland's spotless history, which he said was full of beautiful and wise rulers, good and brave heroes. He preferred simple glory to intellectual confusion: an unfurled banner, the artistry of armor and material.



„Battle of Grunwald,” 1872-1878

The most famous Polish painting
„The Battle of Grunwald” brought Matejko great fame and admiration. On the day of the public presentation, October 28, 1878, in the Wielopolskie Palace in Kraków, the President of Kraków, Mikołaj Zyblikiewicz, presented the painter with a scepter as a symbol of the sovereignty of art. Earlier, in February, the painting was bought by Warsaw financier David Rosenblum for 45,000 Rhenish Guilders. To paint „The Battle of Grunwald,” Matejko had to leave his studio because the 452 square foot painting would not fit. It took him almost six years to create. He got the idea from Długosz's „Chronicles of the Kingdom of Poland”. He wanted to recreate the battle as realistically as possible. Matejko sought his own vision and even went to the fields of Grunwald. He placed Prince Witold in the center of the painting because, according to Długosz, he was the most mobile and dynamic warrior. King Jagiełło, as commander-in-chief, observed the battle from a hill - he is slightly further to the right of the painting. Today, this most admired work of Polish painting by visitors has been housed at the National Museum in Warsaw since 1949.

A master among masters
Like a magician, Matejko conjured up moments of the nation's greatest glory in front of viewers. And not only in Poland. The public flocked to Matejko's gallery in Vienna, where „Sobieski at Vienna” attracted up to 5,000 visitors a day. Despite the content of the work, Emperor Franz Josef smiled with delight and admired the Polish master's artistry. In Paris, Prague, Warsaw, Lviv, Rome, St. Petersburg, Budapest, Matejko's works were admired like a great historical spectacle. The master gave his work „in the name of the nation” to Pope Leo XIII, who preached the reconciliation of church and culture while denouncing Freemasonry, socialism and nihilism. Matejko's work hangs in the Vatican to this day.

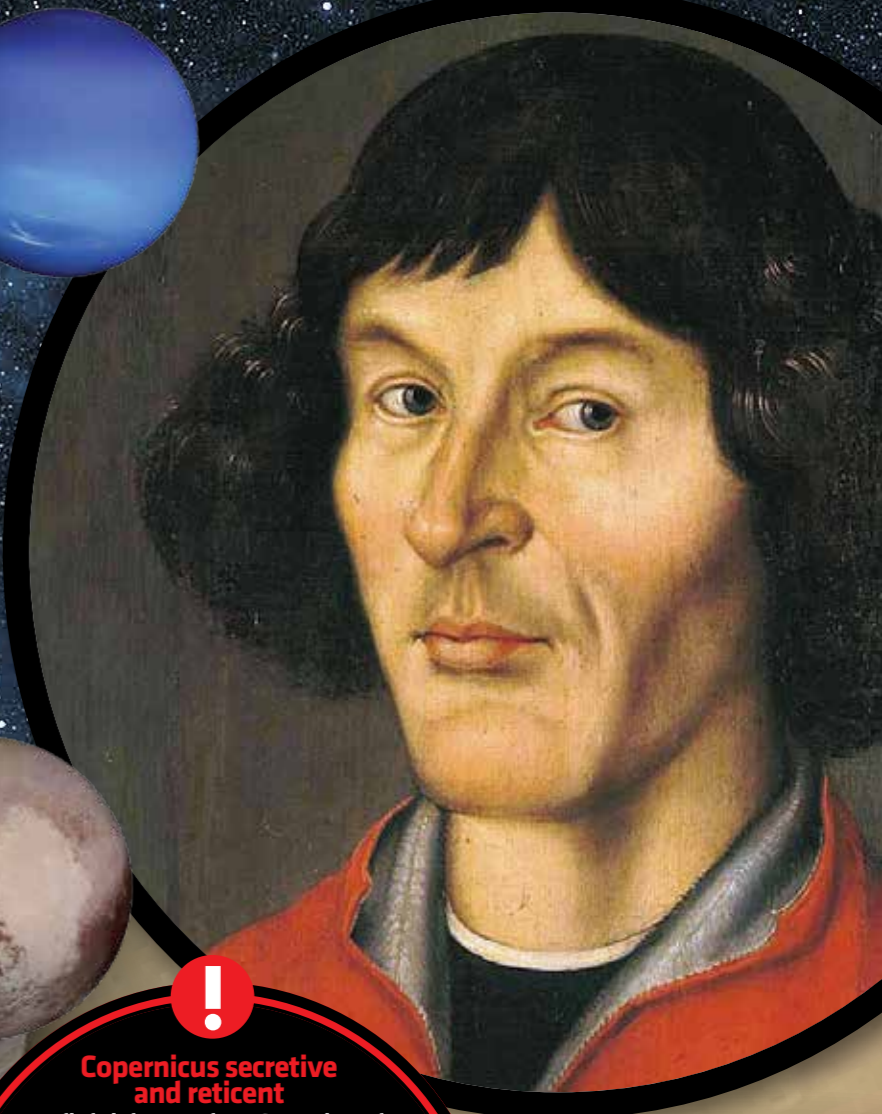
Prussian homage
On October 7, 1882, during a session of the Provincial Sejm in Lviv, Matejko solemnly presented the freshly completed painting „Prussian Homage” to the nation. The large painting, measuring approx. 26 x 14 feet with a massive frame (approx. 33 x 20 feet), depicts an event in 1525 when the Grand Master of the Teutonic Knights, Albrecht Hohenzollern, honored King Sigismund the Old in Kraków's main square. From then on, he was to rule Prussia as a secular prince subordinate to the Polish king. This marked the final end of the monastic state. The painting took Matejko two years to complete. He immortalized more than 30 figures with the features of well-known Kraków residents. The painter's wife, Teodora, became Queen Bona. The painting features two self-portraits in which Matejko himself plays the famous Stańczyk and Bartolomeo Berrecci, the rebuilder of Wawel Castle. The painting can be seen in Kraków's Cloth Hall.



„The Prussian Homage,” 1879-1882

The 550th anniversary of the birth of Nicolaus Copernicus, astronomer and founder of heliocentric theory

Copernicus taken in stride



Nicholaus of Toruń and the Flying Earth

The great geographical discoveries have already proved that the geography in force since antiquity, „professed” by the brilliant astronomer Ptolemy II of Alexandria and published in writing in 140, does not correspond to reality. Scientists increasingly argued that the Earth was not the center of the universe. This revolution in thinking captured Nicolas' mind. Copernican work „On revolutions...” the cosmological (structure of the universe) part of Copernican's work is presented in only a few pages. There is nothing in it that the former enthusiasts had not heard before, but by being printed it was supposed to make a revolution in the minds of ordinary Christians. It did not, if only because reading was not a common skill, and especially not the reading of learned books. The revolution presented in the introduction to the calculations, which the author wanted to prove and describe by means of breakneck spherical trigonometry, only became a bestseller in the 17th century. Then astronomers, physicists and mathematicians, including Johannes Kepler, began to scrutinize it. They found errors in the calculations, arising from false assumptions made by the author. One is that the planets move in a uniform motion, at a constant speed. They corrected the book by crossing out Copernicus's mathematical syntheses, who, thanks to „De Revolutionibus,” became their pater mentis (mentor of the mind).

Celebrities, money, and politics

Another of his revolutionary works is „Treatise on the Device of Coinage ...” from 1526, which was intended to prevent the debasement of European money. In it, he stated that if two types of money of equal value exist at the same time, but people prefer one of them (e.g. higher gold content), this „better” money will be hoarded and mainly the „worse” money will remain in circulation. In short, worse money drives out better money. In addition, he simply wanted to dictate from the top down that the most widely circulating money should have a fixed, constant value for many years. He was therefore an advocate of a rigid state monetary exchange rate.

Like a million dollars

The first edition of „De revolutionibus” was published in Nuremberg in 1543, shortly before the author's death, and the second in Basel more than 20 years later (1566). The originals of „On revolutions...” are priceless. Most of these are in the hands of collectors. Our national jewel, a copy of the first edition stolen from Kraków. Recently, a copy of the 1543 first edition sold for \$1 million at an auction house. „De revolutionibus” is, after the New Testament, the most admired, most precious and most sought-after book by collectors.

And he read, and read...

While studying at the Kraków Academy, then a European center for astronomical studies, he was attracted to the idea of a mathematical representation of the heliocentric theory (planets orbiting the sun). This theory, recounted in several books by ancient philosophers, but also the result of scientific disputes, has been glorified or criticised by Kraków scholars for at least a dozen years. Copernicus made sure he had the right sources, got to the heart of the idea, which was simple enough for even a child to understand, and began the arduous calculations. He didn't need to wade through the references because he knew the ancient philosophers' views on the nature of the universe - the earth, the sun, the planets, and the stars. It was enough to translate them into modern language, to draw a model in which the immobile sun is the center of the universe (we already know that the sun is only the center of our solar system), to describe the principles of operation, transcribing them almost word for word from ancient manuscripts, annotating them with calculations confirming the thesis, to create a work of a lifetime.

Copernicus secretive and reticent

Very little is known about Copernicus, the white spots mainly concern the mature period of his life when he lived in Toruń and Frombork. Supposedly, he was the cause of a moral scandal because he employed a beautiful young woman to work in his house, with whom he had relations forbidden by the Church. These encounters also took place in the thick vines of the garden surrounding the house, where they were discovered by outraged believers and reported as necessary. The bishop, who was widely known to have a mistress and two children, reproached him for this. Nicolas responded to this with one word: hypocrite!

To believe or not to believe?

He was a Renaissance thinker, educated in several natural sciences at the best universities in Europe. Contrary to centuries of popular rumor, Copernicus did not derive his heliocentric theory from his astronomical observations because the instruments available at the time could not faithfully depict the solar system. Copernicus had only a standard telescope and an arm sphere, an astrolabe, which was used to determine the position of the moon and other planets in the sky. The double-lens telescope for observing the sky was not invented until 1609 by Galileo Galilei. He had to rely on the ancient works of philosophers, whose theories were treated only as concepts.

To create, but not to release

At the time, he did not allow the manuscript to be published in print. As he explained (at the end of his life) to a Church dignitary, he had no fear of ecclesiastical punishment, excommunication, or the like. And rightly so, for the busy Reformation Church of his day was extremely tolerant and friendly to the expansion of knowledge by its affiliated educated canons, like Copernicus. The author was terrified of widespread derision. Throughout his life, he fought against the fear of criticism, the ridicule of his work and his views (not just astronomy). It seems that he was doubly successful, as he launched a sensational currency reform and made his mark in the German-Polish politics of the time by holding important offices. Eventually, however, Nicolaus Copernicus was persuaded and the first edition of On the Revolutions of the Spheres appeared in print. There was no response at all. Copernicus soon died of a stroke. He left with the feeling that he had done something great after all, because the scientific community at the time, with which he was closely associated, had convinced him of this.

Scientific duo

Copernicus' work was co-written from the beginning with the astronomer and mathematician, a „believer” in the heliocentric theory. He was Georg Joachim von Lauchen, called Rheticus. This scholar was amazed at the meager instruments in Copernicus' laboratory. There was no planispheric astrolabe or torquetum with which to measure the positions of the planets. Only the instruments of antiquity, already in disuse: the wooden triquetrum, armillary sphere and quadrant, which (in the 2nd century AD) were used by ... Ptolemy! Copernicus sits with the ancient sphere on the pedestal of his Warsaw monument. Just before his death, Nicolaus paid his co-author for the first copy of „De revolutionibus”. However, he did not mention it in the footnote. Retyk, however, remained unchanged in his admiration for the other author of „Revolutions...”. In 1616, as part of the counter-revolution, the Inquisition and the trial of Galileo Galilei, who spoke openly about extraterrestrials (he was burned for this very reason) and Copernican „revolutions,” „De revolutionibus” was put on the list of banned books, but with an exemption: it could be published after radical censorship. The policy was applied once, but not at another time. And so it went for 200 years, after which Copernicus was finally removed from the list of heretical authors.

No one has read Copernicus' work since it left the press”. So said the prominent astronomy historian Arthur Koestler of „On Revolutions” in the 20th century. Was he right or wrong? Was Copernicus' revolutionary book really revolutionary? These questions were asked half a century ago on the 500th anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus' birth. Today, on the 550th anniversary, we know the answers.

February 19, 2023 was the 550th anniversary of the birth of Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543), a scholar who signed his name Nicolaus Nicolai de Thuronia, meaning Nicolaus, son of Nicolaus of Toruń. Whether the Latin book „On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres” was widely read is best known to Professor Owen Gingerich, astrophysicist and historian of science at Harvard University. He discovered over 600 copies of the first edition and found that many of them had annotations, notes, and even calculations in the margins. Scattered by

repeated browsing, they were circulated by eminent scientists with the same interests and passions as Copernicus. One of these was Johannes Kepler, who added his own calculations to those of Copernicus, which were in line with the knowledge that had already been gained by that time (17th century). The son of a merchant, Nicholas was born in Toruń, a subject of the Polish king, studied at several European universities thanks to the generosity of his uncle (later canon of Warmia) and was a passionate book collector.

EWA JABŁOŃSKA

St John Paul II

a life worthy of remembrance

On the 103rd anniversary of the birth of the Polish Pope



Young Karol Wojtyła wanted to become an actor. His calling, however, pushed him towards the clergy, which meant leaving the theater and his dreams of playing great Shakespearean roles behind. Little did he know then that he would come to play the two biggest roles of his life. Both are of great importance for Poland and the world. The first is to be an ecumenical pope. The second is the overthrow of communism in Poland.

If one were to ask random compatriots who was born on May 18, I am sure most would answer Karol Wojtyła. The future Pope „from a distant land”, since 1920 became the joy of his parents.

EWA JABŁOŃSKA

Through the streets of Wadowice

The Wojtyłas were happy to have a second son (the older Edmund was already 14), and the family's father was optimistic about the future. The country finally won independence and he was promoted to lieutenant. Emilia was a seamstress - she hemmed linen by hand. It was one of the lowest-paying female occupations at the time. Mr. and Mrs. Wojtyła strolled through the streets of Wadowice with the future pope in a worn-out stroller. They passed places that will appear in Karol Wojtyła's

childhood memories. The parish church - the Minor Basilica of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, dating back to the 18th century, with a beautiful chancel three centuries older. This is where they baptized their sons. The house at 4 Kościelna St. is one of the oldest buildings in the city - its foundations date back to the late 18th century. The Monastery of the Discalced Carmelite Fathers and the Sanctuary of St. Joseph „On the Hill” was 21 years old, the building of the Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth was just acquiring patina.



Karol Wojtyła with his father, 1921

Habsburgs namesake

The names his parents gave him were no accident. He was named Karol in honor of Charles of Habsburg, the last ruler of Imperial Austria-Hungary. Who would have guessed then that his namesake from

Wadowice would one day raise him to the altars? The second name, Joseph, is an expression of the Wojtyls' affection for Emperor Franz Joseph. Sympathy for him, and an associated weakness for Austria, was not isolated. In the Wojtył family, however, things were different. Poland's freedom was one of its highest values. Besides, Wojtyła senior, a legionnaire, contributed to its recovery.



On May 29, 1929, Karol Wojtyła received his first Holy Communion

Beloved Kraków

Karol Jr.'s relatively carefree life did not last long. He only studied at the Jagiellonian University from 1938 to 1939. Then war broke out. In 1940-1941 he worked in quarries in Zakrzówek and in the Solvay chemical plant. That's when he lost his closest person. When he returned from work, he found his father lying motionless, lifeless. His faith gave him strength.

Starting in October 1940, Karol Wojtyła continued his studies in the second year of Polish Studies at the Jagiellonian University. On November 2, the Germans arrested 183 JU professors. Student Wojtyła thus became acquainted with another despicable facet of Nazism. At the beginning of 1942, the underground structures of the university were launched. So he absorbed secret lectures. He

began to call Kraków, where he lived first as a student and a worker, and then as a vicar priest, „beloved city.” He graduated from the Metropolitan Seminary in Kraków in 1946. It was also the year he was ordained a priest. Wojtyła came to bid farewell to Kraków in November, with „rain

hanging over the street lamps,” as Galczyński wrote. Theological studies in Rome at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas awaited him. Then he left Kraków again: by wagon to Niegowić in Lesser Poland, where he became a vicar.

Material for the pope

In 1958, Wojtyła became bishop. On December 30, 1963, he was appointed Metropolitan of Kraków, and in January 1964 he became Archbishop. He had been cardinal since 1967. And also a renowned theological authority in Europe and, along with the Primate of Poland, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, the most important figure in the Polish episcopate. Poet and polyglot, playwright, philosopher of history - phenomenologist and mystic. A spiritual leader. A material for the pope. He published philosophical works, among others, in „Tygodnik Powszechny” and „Rocznik Filozoficzny”. His lectures were printed in „L'Osservatore Romano.” He published books, supported the construction of churches, including in Nowa Huta - which, according to the guidelines of the communist authorities, was to be „a city without God.” In May 1969, in the presence of Karol Wojtyła, the cornerstone was laid for the construction of the first Nowa Huta church in the Bieńczyce housing estate. On Christmas Eve 1971, when he held a shepherd's vigil in Nowa Huta Square, countless crowds were already listening to him. How glaring was the failure of communist indoctrination. In October 1978, Cardinal Wojtyła went to the funeral of John Paul I and the memorable conclave. He became pope as a result of the eighth vote, at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 16, 1978.

To Masuria and the mountains

Since 1949, he became completely occupied with the Kraków parish of St. Florian and priestly work with academic youth. A new period of the future pope's life began. Not many months after his arrival in the city, the welcoming door of the house near the church where he was staying was flooded with students eager for discussion, information and support in the life increasingly regulated by the authorities.



Bishop Wojtyła on a bicycle trip in Książ

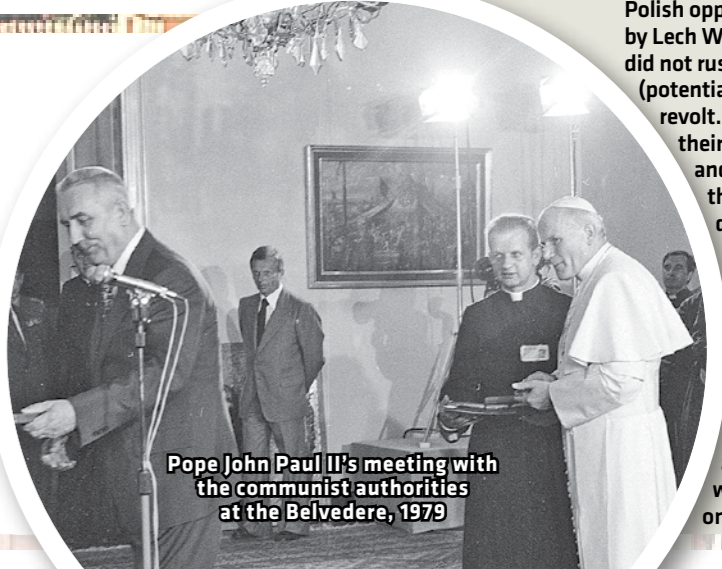
He led a pastoral center at St. Florian Church. In the summer, everyone who was able and willing went with „Uncle” to the Mazuria lake area for kayaking. The priest

and later Bishop Wojtyła led youth groups over mountains and mountain passes. This laid the foundations for the future Poland. A pillar. A refuge.

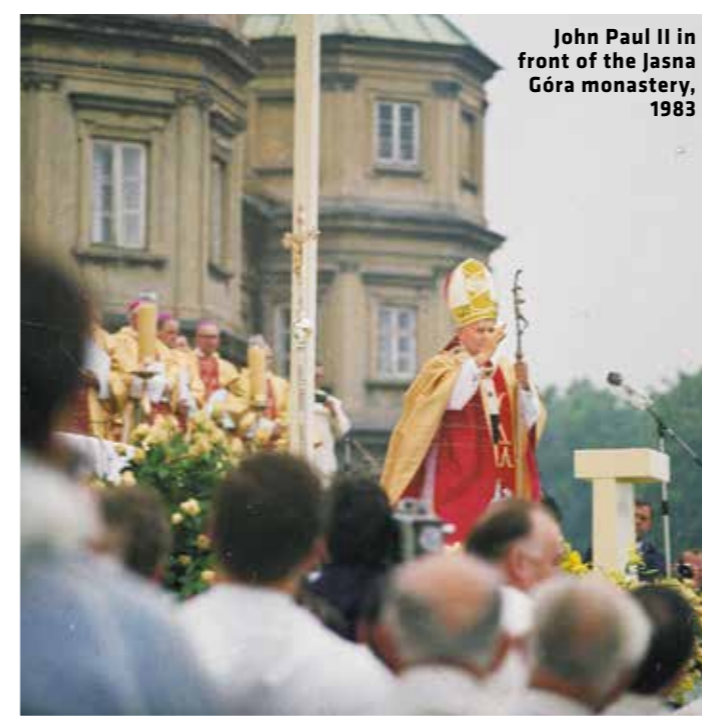
Public enemy No. 1?

The popular Wojtyła was still an interest for the security police in Kraków. When party officials learned that he had become Pope and that Poles were overjoyed, they did not share the public's enthusiasm. „Comrades, we have a problem”, declared Edward Gierrek, First Secretary of the Polish United Workers Party (PZPR), opening an extraordinary meeting of the Political Bureau. „This is the worst thing that could have happened to us,” Wojciech Jaruzelski is reported to have

said. Militia reports of street outbursts of joy, crowds clamoring to masses, and tolling bells were brought to the table. „I would rather be dealing with another nation,” commented Jan Sztydlak of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR). Prime Minister Piotr Jaroszewicz promoted the besieged fortress thesis: „The conclave's decision is proof of the tightening of a hostile conspiracy around Poland.”



Pope John Paul II's meeting with the communist authorities at the Belvedere, 1979



John Paul II in front of the Jasna Góra monastery, 1983

Just the two of them

Emilia Wojtyła died on April 13, 1929 at the age of 45. A month later, Karol turned nine. „My father embraced me, hugged me, and so we continued in silence,” Karol Wojtyła recalled. Four years later, another tragedy struck the Wojtyła family. Edmund, a 26-year-old doctor, did not survive scarlet fever. Karol Wojtyła senior buried his son, and 12-year-old Lolek, a 2nd grade student at Wadowice Middle School, said goodbye to his beloved brother. Of the entire family, only two remained: Karol Sr. and Karol Jr. Supportive and inseparable. John Paul II recalled this period as follows: „At the age of ten or twelve I was an altar boy, but I must confess that I was not very zealous. One day my father said, „You are not a good altar boy. You don't pray enough to the Holy Spirit. And he showed me a prayer I had not forgotten. It was an important spiritual lesson, more lasting and powerful than any other.”



Bishop Wojtyła during a mountain excursion

Don't dampen the spirit

Many remember John Paul II's call from his first pilgrimage to Poland in 1979: „You must be strong with the strength that faith gives.” And even more so this allusive, ambiguously intoned invocation, „Let Your Spirit descend and

renew the face of the earth. This earth!” In June 1983, the Polish people heard the Pope say: „One does not live, one does not love, one does not die on trial.” At the conclusion of his fourth pilgrimage to the country in 1991, the Pope had these famous words for his compatriots: „Give thanks to God and do not dampen the spirit”. In response, he dampened the spirit of hatred and lust for power as best he could, explaining in private meetings to the old radical dissidents who had rejected the young Third Republic that there had been no collusion or compromise in Magdalenka.

Even during the 1983 pilgrimage, the one during martial law, „solidarity” shouted from the Pope's lips as an idea expressed through other words. „Your faith, your steadfastness and your... here he paused. „Solidarity!” - shouted someone in the crowd - and immediately there was a commotion around him. He was picked up by undercover officers disguised as praying or just

In the beginning was the word shaking his hand and patting him on the back. The story is silent about this. However, there are witnesses who remember that the pope's sentence ended with „wisdom.” When he died, the word „sainthood” quickly appeared. At first, just a word. And then. John Paul II was elevated to the altar on April 27, 2014. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, „But those whom (God has predestined for holiness) he has also called, and those whom he has called he has also justified, and those whom he has justified he has also glorified.”

The pope versus communism

It is said that „John Paul II brought down communism” or „helped bring down communism.” The first statement is just a shorthand expression. The second emphasizes the role

of the Pope at the time of our August breakthrough. If Karol Wojtyła had not become pope, communism in Central Europe would also have ended. The question is, would it be bloody? This conciliation was the Pope's address to the Polish opposition, led by Lech Wałęsa, which did not rush towards a (potentially bloody) revolt. They chose their words carefully and analysed the situation to determine the most effective way to lead Poland towards democracy. John Paul II died on April 2, 2005, at the Vatican, at the age of 84. He was canonized on April 27, 2014.

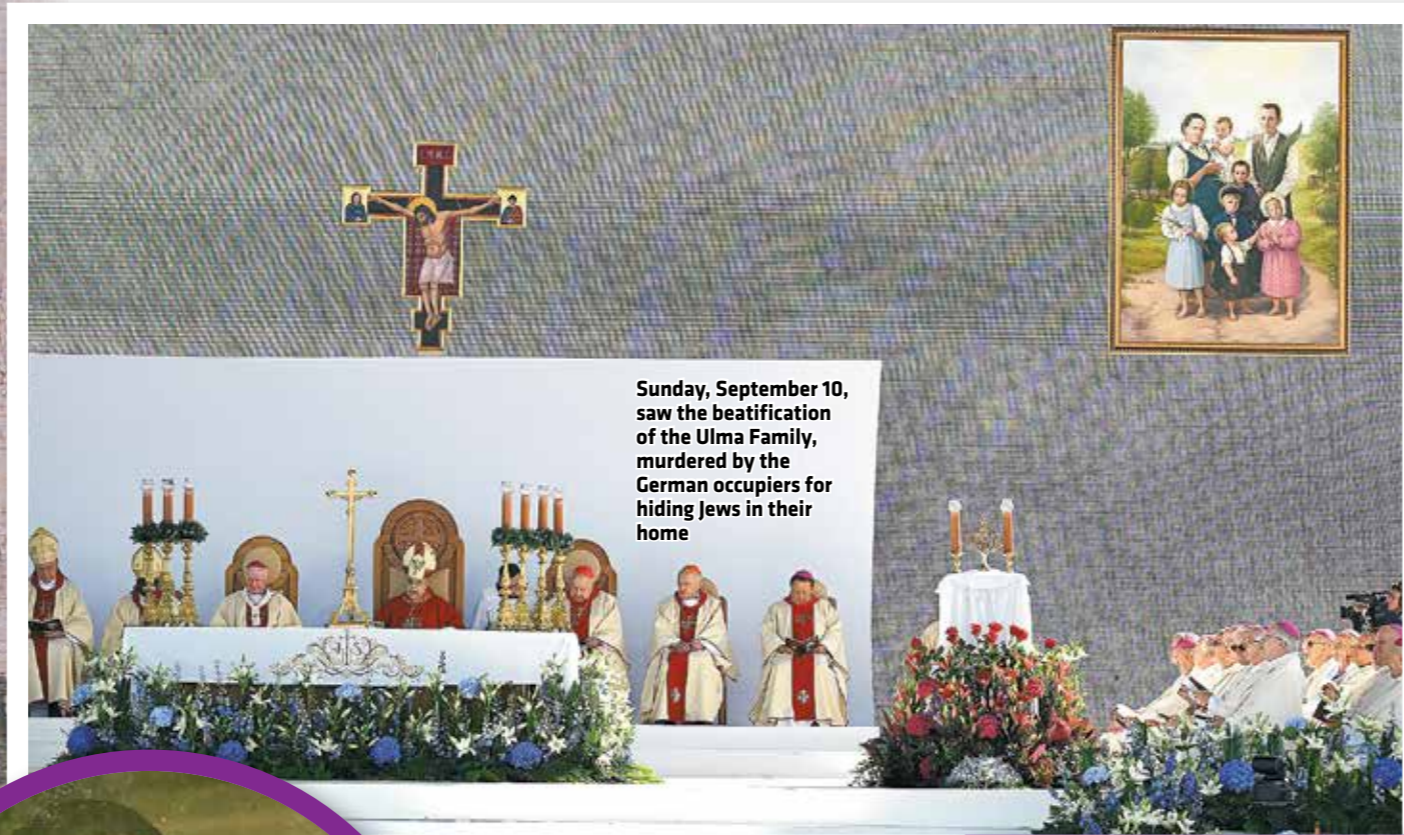
PHOTO: AFP/EAST NEWS, REPRODUKACJA JAKUB GIELOWSKI/PAP, REPRODUKACJA ARTUR PANIOWSKI/EAST NEWS, REPRODUKACJA PAP, NAC (2), REPRODUKACJA EAST NEWS, SHUTTERSTOCK

Blessed Józef and Wiktoria Ulma



Józef and Wiktoria Ulma – the most famous victims of the Nazis, their story is among the most famous of all Poles honored with the title of Righteous Among the Nations

Samaritans from Markowa



Sunday, September 10, saw the beatification of the Ulma Family, murdered by the German occupiers for hiding Jews in their home

Józef and Wiktoria Ulma and their children were murdered by the Germans for hiding Jews during the Second World War. On Sunday, September 10, 2023, they were declared blessed as martyrs for the faith. This is the first time in the history of the Church that an entire family has been beatified.

An exceptional family
Józef Ulma (b. 1900) married Wiktoria Niemczak, twelve years his junior, at the age of 35. The couple ran a farm of several hectares in Markowa, a village in the Subcarpathian region of Łańcut County. This was no ordinary rural family. Joseph, who graduated from an agricultural school, was a man of many talents. He established the first fruit tree nursery in Markowa and made his living by selling seedlings. He also engaged in beekeeping and silkworm breeding. He was able to build a bookbinding machine and a backyard wind turbine, making him the first person in the village to have electricity in his home. He

read a lot and subscribed to newspapers. Part of the book collection has been preserved, with the ex-libris „Home Library – Józef Ulma”. Józef also had a passion unusual in his time and rural environment – photography. His photos have survived to this day. Wiktoria, who took a course at the People’s Academy and performed in amateur theater, was also an unusual character. Together with her husband, she was active in the Union of Rural Youth of the Republic of Poland „Wici” and the Catholic Youth Circle. After her marriage, she devoted herself to housework and childcare. They had six of them. In mid-1943, Wiktoria became pregnant again.

Merciful Samaritans from Markowa
The couple were deeply religious. Their copy of the Bible contains personal notes, comments and an underlined parable of the Good Samaritan. Next to the title, someone wrote the word „YES!” in capital letters. The Ulmas knew that helping the Jews meant death for the entire family. But they chose to be heroes, and faith was their strength. When they saw that their neighbors needed help, they took action. They hid the Jews in a small attic for about a year and a half.

Execution
It was Friday – March 24, 1944. Around 4:30 in the morning, German gendarmes from Łańcut arrived at the Ulmas’ house. Among them were the commander Lieutenant Eilert Dieken, Josef Kokott – known as the „Devil of Łańcut” for his cruelty, and a Volksdeutsche, the blue policeman Włodzimierz Leś. The latter probably reported that the Ulmas were hiding Jews.

First, the gendarmes shot three sleeping Jews in the attic. The others, along with the entire Ulma family, were led outside the house and shot. The Jews were killed, then Józef and Wiktoria, who went into labor during the execution. Dieken then ordered the children to be killed. Eight-year-old Stasia, six-year-old Basia, five-year-old Władzio, four-year-old Franio, three-year-old Antos and one-and-a-half-year-old Marysia were killed by gunshot to the back of the head.

When Markowa village leader Teofil Kieklar later asked the perpetrators why they murdered the children, Dieken replied that they did it for the good of the residents – „so that the community wouldn’t have trouble with them.”
After the execution, the Germans looted the farm and held a drinking party. The villagers were forced to bury the murdered. Two pits were dug – one for the Ulmas, the other for the Jews. In January 1945, the bodies of the Ulma family were exhumed and moved to the local parish cemetery.

In 1995, Wiktoria and Józef Ulma were posthumously awarded the title of Righteous Among the Nations.



Wiktoria and Józef Ulma



A painting depicting Wiktoria and Józef and their Children by Oleg Czychowski of Chmielnik near Rzeszów hangs in the parish church in Markowa



Museum of Poles Saving Jews during World War II in Markowa

Museum of Poles Saving Jews during World War II, named after the Ulma Family
The idea of creating a museum in Markowa appeared in late 2007. The facility was opened on March 17, 2016. It is the first museum in Poland dedicated to the rescue of the Jewish population in occupied Poland during the Holocaust. The Museum building is minimalist and austere, with its shape referring to a country house. The replica of Wiktoria and Józef’s house has a living room, a vestibule and a carpenter’s workshop. It contains memorabilia: furniture, books, school certificates, and most importantly, numerous photographs taken by Józef himself. In the immediate vicinity of the Markowa

The penalty for hiding Jews was death

The Ulma family has always embraced people with kindness. Their home was open to everyone, regardless of religion. Józef Ulma was on very good terms with the Jews even before the war. This did not change during the German occupation.

Jews were hidden in Markowa by several families, but the Ulmas took in the largest group in the fall of 1942. They were their acquaintances from Łańcut: Saul Goldman with his sons



NIEMIECCY ZBRODNIARZE

The perpetrators mostly escaped punishment
Eiler Dieken went through denazification after the war, and was not a member of the NSDAP or SS. He settled in Esens in Lower Saxony and returned to work for the police, where he earned his pension. He died in 1960 as a respected citizen. Only Josef Kokott, a Sudeten German, was punished. He returned to Czechoslovakia after the war. He was accidentally recognized in 1957 and handed over to the Polish courts a year later. He was sentenced to death, which was later commuted to a long prison term. He died in prison in Raciborz in 1980. The blue policeman Włodzimierz Leś was put on trial and punished by the Polish underground state. He was executed on September 11, 1944.

Beatification process

The Ulma family’s beatification process took 20 years. It began on September 17, 2003 as part of the beatification process of the second group of World War II martyrs. In order to gather witness testimony and documentation regarding the Ulma family’s alleged martyrdom, a rogatory trial was held in the Przemyśl archdiocese, which ended in 2008.

In 2017, Archbishop Adam Szal of Przemyśl appealed to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to exclude „the servants of God Józef and Wiktoria Ulma and their seven children” from the martyrdom process. Following the congregation’s favorable decision, a new independent beatification process was opened in the Archdiocese of Przemyśl „for the martyrdom of Servants of God Józef Ulma and Wiktoria Ulma, spouses and 7 companions, their children, who were allegedly killed because of religious hatred in 1944.” On December 7, 2022, Pope Francis signed a decree paving the way for their beatification. On September 10, 2023, the beatification ceremony took place in Markowa.

The most famous romance of the 19th century

Fryderyk Chopin and George Sand

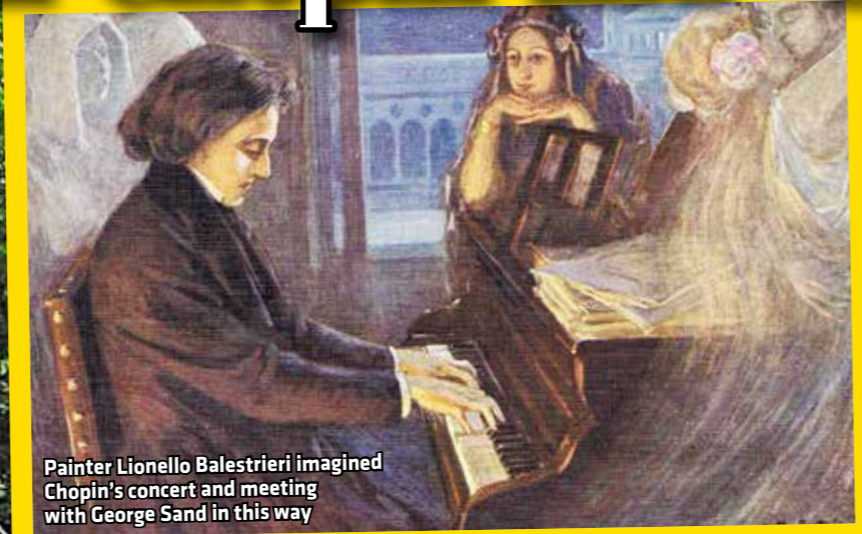
An unusual couple, a strange relationship, a relationship that rocked Europe for ten years. She was a married woman, a liberated woman, an author of popular books that made it to the banned list. He was six years her junior, a frail, ailing composer with extraordinary talent, adored in European salons. The eccentric George Sand had many lovers, but it was Fryderyk Chopin who became her great love. Without Sand's extraordinary care, the brilliant composer would not have created many of his most important works. According to contemporaries, it helped him live ten years longer. At first Chopin was not interested in Sand, but she managed to make him fall in love with her.

! You can listen to the compositions of this great composer beneath the Chopin Monument in the Royal Łazienki Park. Piano Recitals - Chopin Concerts are held every Sunday at 12 pm and 4 pm from mid-May to the end of September.

Fryderyk Chopin (1810-1849) is considered one of the fathers of the Romantic era in music. His music is full of grace, charm and expression. He was born in Zelazowa Wola in 1810. He showed exceptional musical talent from an early age. He started piano lessons at the age of four and composed his first work at the age of six. Chopin studied at the Warsaw Conservatory under Józef Elsner. In 1830, after the outbreak of the November Uprising, he left Poland for Paris at the age of 18, where he spent the rest of his life. In Paris, Chopin gained international fame as a pianist. His concerts were revered by the aristocracy and famous artists. It was there that he met George Sand.

Frederic Chopin. Watercolor painted by Maria Wodzinska, 1835

BEATA LEKSZYCKA



Painter Lionello Balestrieri imagined Chopin's concert and meeting with George Sand in this way

Love not at first sight

Sand was 35 when Chopin caught her eye, who ruled the Paris salons and was a favourite with the ladies. At the time, he was available because his engagement to Maria Wodzińska had been broken off. George clearly made a negative impression on Chopin after their first meeting in 1836. „How unpleasant she is! - he remarked. „Is she even a woman?” - he wrote to friends. But he invited her to his living room in the

evenings. The writer fell in love with him and fought for his affections. The three words she wrote to him - On Vous adore (Someone adores you) have been called the most laconic love letter in history. Chopin kept the piece of paper on which Sand crossed out these words for the rest of his life.



Portrait of George Sand, by Thomas Sully, 1826

A woman with a past

Her real name was Aurora Dupin. At the age of 18, she married Baron Casimir Dudevant, with whom she had two children - Maurice and Solange. The spouses lived separately. Aurora went to live in Paris with the writer Jules Sandeau, and took her male pseudonym from his name. She began writing books and soon found herself at the center of artistic life. She

carried herself in a manly way, was known for her extravagant and casual lifestyle, smoked cigarettes, drank vodka, and expressed her views in public. She created with ease, treated writing as a profession, and her works were very popular, though often banned. She won the hearts of men with her grace and intelligence. Her list of lovers included poet Alfred de Musset, playwright Prosper Mérimée, and musician Ferenc Liszt.

Journey to Mallorca

A fiery romance blossomed when the lovers set sail for Mallorca in the autumn of 1838 to save Fryderyk's health. The warm climate was supposed to restore the patient's health. Everything was going well. George, her children and Chopin relaxed and explored the island. At first they lived in a villa near Palma di Mallorca, but Chopin's diagnosis

of tuberculosis and Spain's strict health regulations forced them to move to a Carthusian monastery in Valldemossa. The trip turned into a nightmare, it got very cold in Mallorca and it rained constantly. Sand nurtured Frederick with love and devotion, cooked and washed - thanks to her he could compose.

Summers at Nohant

George became mistress of the house in Nohant, where she grew up, at the age of 17. Chopin first came to the estate in 1839. Over the following years, he spent the summer months here - usually from May to October or even November. For the rest of

the year, they lived in separate apartments in Paris. George and Fryderyk's love blossomed at Nohant, and his most important compositions were written here. But even in Nohant her affection burned out, and conflicts arose with Sand's growing

children. Maurice hated Chopin because he took away his mother's love. Besides, he was a genius and the boy lacked talent. Solange vied for Fryderyk's favor and had a crush on him. In November 1846, Chopin left Nohant and never returned there.

The works of Fryderyk Chopin

Fryderyk Chopin is undoubtedly one of the greatest composers and pianists in history. His music is expressive and dynamic, making it easily recognizable. His works for solo piano, full of subtle nuances and emotions, are considered among the most beautiful in the history of music. Chopin is an indisputable symbol of Polish culture. His music is known and loved the world over, and generations of artists continue to draw inspiration from his work to create their own.



Polish Cultural Garden in Cleveland with a bust of Fryderyk Chopin

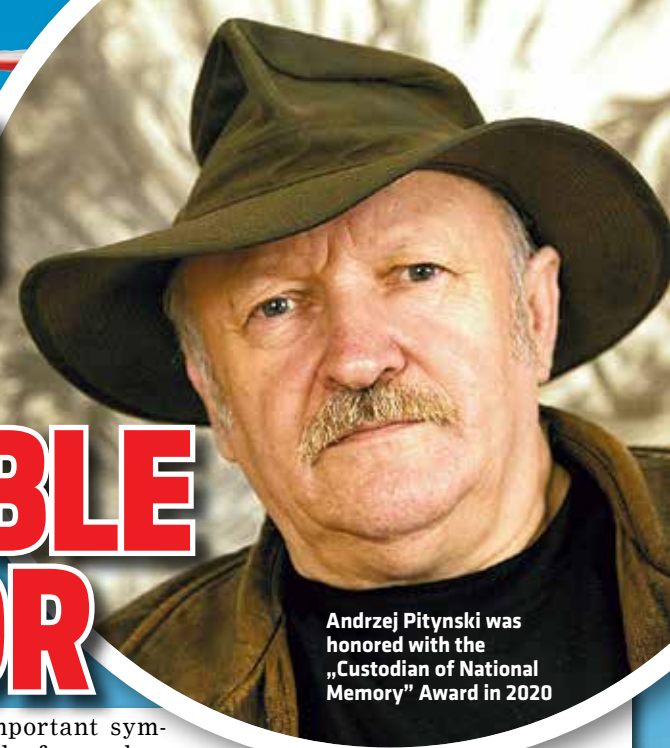
Tragic breakup finale

Things began to go wrong between the lovers, not only because of problems with Sand's children. The composer became totally immersed in music, and he also became irritable. Much to George's annoyance, Solange began an affair with and married the sculptor August Clésinger. In a conflict with his mother, Fryderyk sided with Solange and supported the girl. Finally, there was a unilateral breakup. After 10 years, Sand ended her relationship with Chopin. They exchanged farewell letters in the summer of 1847, preceded by the publication of Sand's novel

„Lucrezia Floriani,” in which the author, according to his friends, ridiculed his lover. Chopin took the end of the relationship in stride. Deprived of Sand's care, however, he felt worse and worse. On March 4, 1848, they met by chance for the last time. Chopin managed to tell her that she had become a grandmother, which she did not know. He died of tuberculosis a year later. He was buried in the Père-Lachaise cemetery. Fryderyk Chopin's heart returned to Warsaw and was placed at rest in the Church of the Holy Cross. The mistress outlived him by 27 years.

Andrzej Pityński

THE INDOMITABLE SCULPTOR



Andrzej Pityński was honored with the „Custodian of National Memory” Award in 2020

A ndrzej Pityński (1947-2020) was an outstanding sculptor who became famous for his iconic monuments. Throughout his creative life, he was true to himself in describing the tragedy of Poland's fate. His childhood experiences, which left an enduring imprint on his psyche, shaped his artistic vision and gave his work a deep civic and moral dimension. This is evident in his work, which often deals with patriotic, martyrdom and religious themes. His work has had a significant impact on Polish and international art.

Pityński was born in 1947 in the small town of Ulanów, today a town in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship. His parents fought to liberate Poland from Soviet occupation. Pityński witnessed the persecution suffered by his parents, soldiers of the cursed, at the hands of the communist authorities. The artist's father, Stanisław Pityński, was arrested by the Security Office in

1947 and spent several months in custody. The UB repeatedly interrogated and tortured his mother Maria.

Andrzej Pityński recalled that his childhood was full of fear and uncertainty. The tragic fate of his parents was also a source of inspiration for his artistic work. He studied at the Kraków Academy of Fine Arts under Jerzy Nowosielski and Marian Konieczny. Shortly after receiving his diploma, in 1974, Pityński moved to the United States, where he spent the rest of his life.

Brutally real

He was an artist who boldly and decisively set high goals for himself. Already in his first year in the United States, at the age of only 29, he won the Carnegie Hall competition for a monumental portrait of Artur Rubinstein, one of Poland's most outstanding pianists. He was awarded the New York mayor's prize for this sculpture.

In the following years, Pityński created many other monumental sculptures with patriotic themes, such as „Partisans”, „Avenger”, „Patriot” and „Katyn 1940”. The sculptures are extremely realistic and very expressive, even „screaming” at the viewer. Their message is unequivocal: they are an expression of the artist's deep pain and sympathy for the victims of communist crimes. Pityński was an opponent of abstract art.

A memorial unlike any other

The Katyn 1940 Memorial in Jersey City is one of the most

important symbols of remembrance of the Katyn Massacre. The statue depicts a Polish officer who was betrayed and murdered by the Soviets. It is a tragic and poignant image that will make an impression on the viewer. In 2018, Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop announced plans to remove the monument from its current location in Exchange Place. He argued that the memorial „is not a properly politically correct idea at present”. Jersey City's Polish community strongly opposed the mayor's decision. Rallies and demonstrations were organized, and petitions were sent to defend the monument. As a result of these actions, the mayor withdrew his plan to remove the monument.

This memorial is not only a symbol of remembrance of the victims, but also an expression of opposition to the criminal Soviet rule. The Katyn massacre was an act of barbarism that should never be forgotten.

Portraitist of the great

However, Pityński did not limit himself to patriotic themes. He also created sculptures on religious themes, such as „Gotha” and „Pieta”. He also created numerous bronze works, including busts of Fryderyk Chopin, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Father Jerzy Popiełuszko, Maria Skłodowska-Curie and Pope John Paul II. Paderewski's bust is in the National Museum in Warsaw, Popiełuszko's bust is in Trenton, New Jersey, and Maria Skłodowska-Curie's statue stands in front of the library in Bayonne, New Jersey. One bust of Pope John Paul II is in his hometown of Ulanów and the other in New York.

The artist also created two monuments to General Władysław Anders: one in Cassino, Italy, commemorating Poland's participation in the Battle of Monte Cassino during World War II, and another in the American Częstochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, com-

memorating General Anders as commander of the 2nd Polish Army Corps. In 2002, Andrzej Pityński created a statue of Tadeusz Kościuszko in St. Petersburg, Florida. The bronze statue depicts Kosciuszko in the uniform of an American general, with a sword in his right hand.

Citizen and patriot

Andrzej Pityński was deeply involved in patriotic activities. As the son of indomitable soldiers, he was raised in a family with a strong sense of patriotism and respect for national values. In America, Pityński quickly established contacts with Polish organisations working for Polish independence. In 1979, he became a member of the Society of Veterans of the Polish Army in America (SWAP). He was an activist of the organisation for 40 years, serving more than 20 years as a member of District No. 2 authorities in New York. He took an active part in patriotic events, and in Pułaski's parade he always wore a SWAP outfit, as a sign of his pride in belonging to this organisation.

His work is in the collections of museums around the world, including the National Museum in Warsaw, the National Museum in Kraków, the National Museum in Poznań, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, DC.

The Andrzej Pityński Museum was opened on Independence Day, November 11, 2015, in a reconstructed loft in Andrzej Pityński's hometown of Ulanów. The artist's latest work is a monument to the soldiers of the outlaws in Jasło. In 2017, the artist was awarded the Order of the White Eagle. Andrzej Pityński died on 18 September 2020 in Mount Holly (Burlington County), New Jersey.

ADRIANNA OSTASZEWSKA



The „Katyn 1940” monument stands at Exchange Place in Jersey City



The sculptor during the installation of another work