POLAM

A Publication of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota www.pacim.org

May 2011

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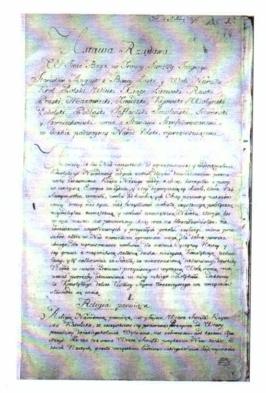
Vol. 33, Num. 05

Polish Constitution Day!

On the third of May, Poles throughout the world celebrated the adoption of the Polish Constitution on May 3, 1791. It has been celebrated in the Chicago area since 1892 and is an official holiday in Poland. The Constitution was in effect for only one year, until the defeat of Polish forces at the end of the Polish-Russian War of 1792, yet its legacy endures and continues to inspire Poles and others alike.

Although it lasted barely a year, its true importance remained in the hearts of Poles down through history. For the Poles saw the Constitution as "the culmination of all that was good and enlightened in Polish history and culture." For 123 years it remained a touchstone for Poles in their patriotic efforts to restore the independence and sovereignty of their homeland. When Poles fought throughout Europe and America "for your freedom and ours," it remained a beacon of Polish hopes and dreams. In the words of two of its coauthors, Ignacy Potocki and Hugo Kołłątaj, it was "the last will and testament of the expiring Motherland."

Although the Constitution was not allowed to take root and flower in its homeland, it was a remarkable document for its time and inspired other nations in their pursuit of democracy. It is a document truly worthy of celebration by all Poles and Polish Americans.





Top: May 3rd Contitution Manuscript: Above: May 3 Constitution, by Matejko (1891). King Stanisław August (left) enters St. John's Cathedral, where deputies will swear to uphold the Constitution.



News From Poland

by Mietek Konczyk

President Barack Obama will visit Poland during a May 23–28 trip to Europe.

Poland marked the first anniversary of a plane crash that killed **President Lech Kaczyński** and 95 others, including dozens of top Polish officials. The commemorative ceremonies were overshadowed by deep internal political divisions, street demonstrations and strong accusations, which some commentators see as the beginning of a campaign before the parliamentary elections to be held this fall.



Andrzej Wajda, Oscarwinning Polish film director, received Poland's highest distinction, the Order of the White Eagle, for having shaped Polish culture through his art.

The Polish Constitutional Tribunal ruled that the **Marshal Law** introduced on December 13, 1981 was illegal.

An estimated 500 thousand Poles a year will seek employment in Germany and Austria. Both countries **opened labor markets** for Poles on May 1, 2011.

News From Poland continues on page 2

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PolAm

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We appreciate your continued support. Dziękuję!

Thoughts

In this issue we continue to look at Christopher Columbus and his possible Polish roots. It's intriguing to ponder the



possibility that
Columbus was the
son of King
Władysław of
Poland, not that I
find pleasure in
stealing him from
the Italians. It does
show how much we

know or do not know of the past. At first glance it seems impossible, but historian Da Silva Rosa does seem to make a convincing argument. His Portuguese pride does run deep for not only does he steal Columbus from the Italians but he pokes a stick into Spanish pride as well as the Portuguese are wont to do. Which brings to mind that the first foreign Pole I ever met was on a hillside above the Alhambra in Granada, Spain in 1980. He was from a theatre group from Szczecin and had a burn leg and couldn't hike with his companions. But I digress....

Regards,

Steven H. Wasick Steven Ukasick, Editor

News From Poland continues

The average retirement age in Poland in 2010 proved the highest in history at 59.6, according to data collected by the ZUS social insurance board.

Thousands of fans from across Poland,



bearing red and white national flags, gathered in the southern ski resort of Zakopane to watch the former world ski jump champion, Adam Malysz, take his last jump during fes-

tivities that marked the end of his long and successful career.

New and Generous Members

New Members
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PACIM
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Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403
or donate online at www.pacim.org

PACIM Artist Exchange Program

"Remember: art is not just what you hang on the wall. It is what you read, what you touch, what makes you smile and what makes you sad. It's in the beauty of nature and in museums as well as outside in winter and spring. It touches you every day in more ways than you suspect."

The interchange of artists from Minnesota and Warsaw allows for the fertile mixing of the Old World and the New. For Poles and Polish Americans, it gives us the opportunity not only to remember the Old Country, but to experience anew its art and culture through the eyes of its contemporary artists.

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota continues its fundraising to help underwrite this program. Our goal is \$1,500; we've already raised \$670. Can you help?

To make a donation, mail your check made payable to PACIM, with Artist Exchange on the memo line, to: PACIM

PO Box 18403

Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403 or donate online at www.PACIM.org. All donations will be acknowledged. Contact Irene at 612-378-9291 and leave a message.

Irene Colston

PACIM Artistic Director

From the President of Dolina Polish Folk Dancers

Dear *Pol-Am* readers / PACIM members, On behalf of the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers, we are grateful to have this opportunity to ask you for financial support for our upcoming trip to participate in the 15th International Folk Dance Festival in Rzeszów, Poland. Over the past year or so, we have held car washes and dinners, and we have worked at festivals to raise funds. We are thankful for those of you who have supported us at those events. Even following PACIM

events that we have performed at, there have been some generous individuals who have sent us checks for our trip; to you, we are very grateful.



This is Dolina's eighth time attending the International Polish Folk Dance Festival in Rzeszów. The last time Dolina participated was in 2005. We have 43 active members, with 30 participating in Rzeszów this year. Fourteen of the members going to Rzeszów are under the age of 21. These younger members have been diligent in saving and raising funds. These young folks could especially use additional financial support to cover travel and participation costs. To put the financial requirements into perspective, with airfare and in-country expenses, the total costs for the group will be over \$60,000.

While in Rzeszów, the dance group will be learning a new set of dances. We are planning on adding the Spisz subregion of the Tatra Mountains to our repertoire of 18 suites. We will bring this new dance suite back to perform for our Polish community. Besides the opportunity to perform and learn new suites, the Rzeszów festival enriches our members and helps keep them motivated to stay active with Dolina and the Polish community in general.

Dolina is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and a receipt will be sent to all who contribute for tax purposes, unless you note it is not necessary. Please send checks written out to Dolina and mail them to our Treasure, John Czichray, 1401 N Innsbruck Drive NE, Fridley, MN 55432.

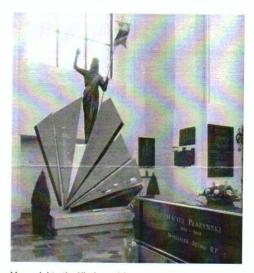
With a note of gratitude, James A. Bueltel

-President, Dolina Polish Folk Dancers

Poles Remember the Smoleńsk Air Crash Catastrophe

Memorial services were held throughout Poland and at the crash site itself commemorating the first anniversary of the Smoleńsk Air Crash Catastrophe in which the Polish president and 95 other Polish dignitaries lost their lives last year on April 10. They were on their way to the 70th anniversary ceremony of the Katyń massacre of 21,000 Polish reservists during World War II by orders of Stalin.

Masses, tributes, ringing of church bells and multiple observances of the one year anniversary were held throughout



Memorial to the Victims of Smolensk in Gdansk

Poland. The official commemorations started at 8:41 am (the time of the crash) with President Bronisław Komorowski and Prime Minister Donald Tusk laying a wreath at a Warsaw cathedral. Polish first lady Anna Komorowska says she hopes a visit to the site of last year's plane crash in Russia will help families of the victims heal. She joined about 100 family members at the site of the crash near Smoleńsk.

The deceased Polish president's twin brother Jarosław Kaczyński organized commemorations of the tragedy separate from the official government observances.

A two-part BBC World radio documentary entitled After the Crash was aired on April 16th. You can listen to the program online at the BBC World Service website: www.bbc.co.uk. Search for: "Your World: After the Crash".



Christopher Columbus and his Polish Roots

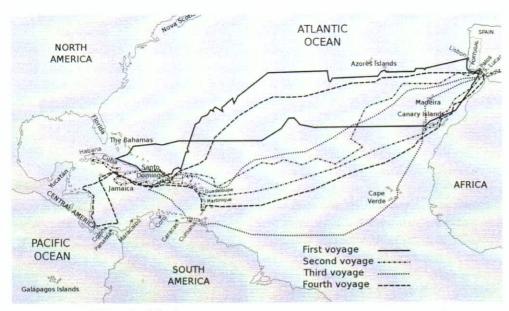
By Kasia Price

he buzz about Christopher
Columbus being Polish hit the
mainstream media last fall. A
sleeping tiger of a book, published two
years ago, claims that Columbus was the
illegitimate son of King Władysław III.
The Polish king lost the Battle of Varna
to the Ottoman Empire in 1444 and was
thought to have died in battle. Manuel da
Silva Rosa's book, Columbus: The
Untold Story, challenges Władysław's historically accepted end and works to prove
he went to Portugal in secret self exile,
where he fathered Columbus.

American history books teach that Columbus was an Italian wool weaver of humble roots who begged the Spanish monarchy for money to make his famous voyage. Our science books teach that Columbus got lost trying to reach India, and was surprised at discovering the world is not flat. Manuel da Silva Rosa's book argues against both points and more. He says Columbus received money for his journey and permission to marry a Portuguese noblewoman only because he was of royal blood. Further, using the stars at night, navigators had long assumed the earth was a sphere; and Columbus was known to be the most experienced navigator in Castile in the 15th century.

Manuel da Silva Rosa is from Portugal and now is a professor at Duke University. He has devoted the last 20 years to researching Columbus and Władysław III. *Pol-Am* asked blogger Kasia Price to help unravel the mystery behind da Silva Rosa's book. Below is an excerpt from her interview with the author.

KP: Could you give a brief summary of the book, Columbus: The Untold Story? MdSR: In a nutshell, the book exposes the official Christopher Columbus history we all learned as a "rags to riches" fairy tale of a Genoese wool weaver... an example of "a lie told often enough becomes the truth." I had heard of the wool-weaver Columbus, but had no interest in knowing more until I learned he married a noblewoman in 1479, 15 years



The four voyages of Christopher Columbus.

before his famous voyage of discovery. I was dumbfounded to learn that a peasant could marry any noblewoman in those times. His wife (Filipa Moniz) was the daughter of a Portuguese noble captain and was very close to the Portuguese court... Why wasn't I taught in school that the world's most famous discoverer was married in Portugal? It was then I decided to find out why my [Portuguese] teachers cheated me of this knowledge.

KP: Did Christopher Columbus say or write anything about his Portuguese origins? MdSR: Columbus wrote in a sort of Portuguese-flavored Spanish, but neither he nor the courts ever publicly acknowledged who his parents were. This secret was so closely guarded that 500 years later we are still trying to peer into his roots and are prevented from doing so by the amount of misinformation created during his lifetime. In all of his writings Columbus never let his guard down except for one time on March 4, 1493. In that unguarded instance, while resting in Portugal upon his arrival from his first voyage, Columbus wrote to the Spanish monarchs, "Remember your Highnesses that I left a wife and children and came from MY HOMELAND to serve you." Seeing that Columbus was married in Portugal and that he had gone directly from Portugal to Spain, the inferred homeland has to be Portugal.

KP: Why should people care about Columbus' origins?

MdSR: This is not about Columbus. This is about exposing the truth. People should care about the truth. What I have succeeded in doing was to show that the current history is a lie... I am dying to know for certain why the whole charade was invented and what was so important in Columbus' lineage that several courts would aid in hiding his past as they carefully did. I believe I have discovered Columbus' secret... that secret is that Columbus' father was Władysław III. The king disappeared in battle never to be seen again by his subjects, changed identities and sought a new life and refuge far away from the intrigues of Poland's de-facto king, Bishop Zbigniew Olesnicki. In 1444 Władysław III chose to become his own man and deserted the throne of Poland.

KP: I understand that part of the final evidence behind this new theory is dependent on a DNA test. How will you gather and compare DNA samples of Columbus and Władysław III? MdSR: There is no DNA from King Władysław III. His body's resting place is not known. Some DNA of Columbus was tested at the University of Granada, Spain, from 2003-06... confirming the conclusions I have drawn from my long years of research. Columbus could not have been from Italy... out of the 477

Colombo families tested, not one DNA matched Columbus' DNA... if the history of Columbus being Italian were correct, then one would expect to find many matches. I have proposed that some DNA tests be done with Władysław's Polish-Lithuanian royal house to see if the 500 year old puzzle of Columbus' true identity can be finally solved. I hope this can be done in the near future.

KP: I found a website which claims that the Polish heritage of Columbus is a hoax. How do you feel about this? MdSR: I have countless letters from readers of my book, including professors and academics who wonder how they ever fell for the old tale... James T. McDonough, Jr., Ph.D., Professor at St. Joseph University, says, "The more I read, the more convincing the book's massive accumulation of historical details become. I would say that the book provides the best answers to many previously unexplained problems in the Columbus puzzle." I ask only that critics read my book before they decide which story to believe-their account of an ignorant wool-weaver who succeeded by luck, or my account of a noble and well-schooled secret agent who succeeded because he was trained and lied because he had to pull off an assignment he had been entrusted with.

A formal request has been made to Wawel Cathedral to test DNA of Władysław II buried there. National Geographic and The Discovery Channel are also looking into the claims of da Silva Rosa's book. Perhaps we will soon know the truth of Columbus' Polish roots.

Kasia Price blogs on "Polish Mama on the Prairie" (http://polishmamaontheprarie.blogspot.com)

News

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the extent limited by law. Please consider including us in your tax and estate planning. We appreciate your generous support.

The Board of Directors of PACIM holds their monthly meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Institute: 2514 Central Ave NE. All are invited. 612-378-9291

Przysłowia Polskie

Deszcz w Wielki Piątek, zapełnia każdy katek.

Rain on Good Friday, brings a good harvest (fills every corner).

Kalendarz

MAY 5-8 Festival of Nations AUG 13-14 Twin Cities Polish Festival NOV 6 Soup Festival

PACIM's Soup Fest

Due to more than one scheduling conflict, the Soup Fest has been moved to Sunday, November 6th. No other details have been finalized as yet. Please mark your calendars for this very popular event. Watch this space for more information as it becomes available.

PACIM's Bus Trip to Chicago Cancelled

Due to a lack of registrations for this trip to Chicago's Constitution Day Parade, the PACIM board regretfully decided to cancel this year's trip. By necessity the trip (and Polish Constitution Day Parade) was to be on the same weekend as Mother's Day which led to scheduling conflicts. The PACIM board is committed to offering the trip again next year.

Róg Endowment granted to Dolina Polish Folk Dancers

PACIM president, Ania Scanlan, the entire board and scholarship committee chair, Charlene Delaney are pleased to announce that the Róg Endowment this year has been awarded to the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers for their trip to Rzeszów this summer.

PACIM Library

PACIM Library 2514 Central Avenue NE Minneapolis, MN 55418 Hours: Sundays from 1 to 3:30 PM or by appointment

Thanks to Barb Breza and Phyllis Husted for their donations to the Library this month. As requested, Phyllis brought back from Poland two audio books in the Chronicles of Narnia series. This year's focus on our "Bring a Book Back from Poland" program is audio books. They are very convenient in the car for long trips or while one is doing something repetitive with their hands. But they are very difficult to find in the United States. We don't have enough of them to advertise. When we do, we will let everyone know. If you are going to Poland and want to participate in the program, please email me at judytam@usfamily.net and I'll send you a list of the titles we now have. Thanks.

-Judith Blanchard, *Librarian* 763-571-9602

Echos from the North

News from Little Falls, Minnesota

Hope you're all enjoying the springtime. It was slow in coming but definitely worth waiting for.

The Polish Echos meet on the third Tuesday of every month. Usually the meetings are quite short and followed by entertainment. Everyone is invited and we hope you'll drop in some time if you're in our area.

We have now judged our scholarships. We had a good number of applications. One of the requirements is to write something about the student's involvement with Polish customs and how their Polish heritage has influenced them. We had some really nice essays, which the committee read to the entire meeting and everybody in attendance had the opportunity to vote for the winner. While at this time I cannot say who the winner is, I will simply say that the student is from Little Falls Community High School and plans to attend North Dakota State University.

It was decided that we would not have a float in the Dam Festival Parade which will be held in Little Falls in mid-June.
We plan on doing so only every other year. It involves a lot of work and we're all very busy.

Once again we will be selling brats at the local grocery store. This is a nice way to get our club better known in the area. Our dates are July 28–29. This can be a really fun time.



Dolina Polish Folk Dancers will be at the 2011 Twin Cities Polish Festival August 13–14.

A local travel agency will be providing transportation to the Polish Festival in Minneapolis. Those that were able to attend last year really enjoyed the day. I was unable to attend last year but hopefully I can make it this year. Anyone interested in joining us please call Gary Block at 320-632-8632.

Why not visit us sometime? If this summer ever puts you in the vicinity of Little Falls, give me a call. I would be delighted to meet you.

God's Blessings, Phinee Zak, Polish Echos 403 SW 8th St. Little Falls, MN 56345 320-632-2652

Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota Affiliate Member of the American Council for Polish Culture

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Magdelena Zborowski.

Contact Board Members at: info@pacim.org

Events

Many dates and times for events are given to us well in advance of the actual date and are subject to change. Please call to verify the particulars.

May 7 Little Falls Dinner

The annual Polish dinner sponsored by the Polish Echos at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Serving Polish foods with an American twist: appetizers, soup, salad, entrées and desserts. The afternoon begins with a program by Randy Albright, a well-known singer of songs honoring Our Lady. He will have a program in the afternoon, then Mass and the dinner to follow afterward. Price is \$15 per person.

May 7 Duluth "Majowka" Celebration

Holy Family Catholic Church 2340 W 3rd St, Duluth.
Social hour 6:30 pm, Polish Dinner 7 pm, Music by Doctor Kielbasa 8 pm–Midnight Advance tickets only. Call Mark at 218-727-2697. \$20 per ticket if purchased by April 30th/\$25 per ticket if purchased after April 30th.

May 13—May 16 Fundraising weekend at Linder's for Dolina Polish folk Dancers

Shop at any Linder's Flower Mart or store with a special "Invitation" form between Friday May 13-Monday May 16 and Linder's will donate 15% of your purchase to the Dolina Dancers. Help Linder's donate more to our group by purchasing Linder's gift cards through a Dolina member, the dolina.org website or by calling Bev at 651-492-0424 or bevdance@gmail.com. \$10, \$25 & \$50 cards are available. Use them when you shop during our fundraising weekend! Example: with a \$25 purchase during May 13-16, Dolina will earn \$7.50. When a \$25 gift card is purchased 15% will also be donated to Dolina-Total amount to Dolina will be \$15 instead of \$7.50!!

If you are not in town that weekend you can purchase the gift cards and use them when you are able to shop. The gift cards never expire and make great gifts!

Linder's no longer accepts checks. Go to www.linders.com for nearest store location.

May 15 "A Song to Remember"

This Technicolor film from the 40s depicting the life of Frederick Chopin will be shown at 2 pm at the historic Heights Theatre, 3951 Central Ave NE, Columbia Heights. Sponsored by the Columbia Heights/Łomianki, Poland, Sister Cities International Committee. Pre-movie entertainment will be provided by students from the St. Paul Conservatory of Music. Tickets \$10.

June 17–19 Polish Fest in Milwaukee

Celebrating their 30th year. Adults \$12, Children Free. For more information, see www.polishfest.org

June 25 Midwest Polka Association Summer Dance

It's a polka rockin' night with the Polka Family Band from Pennsylvania! This popular band returns to Minnesota to play at the MPA Summer Dance on Saturday, June 25, at the Fridley Knights of Columbus Hall, 6831 Central Ave NE in Fridley from 7-11 pm. For more information, email Jim Carlson at k.carlson55110@yahoo.com or call 651-426-1079. For location directions, call 763-571-1492.

August 13–14 Twin Cities Polish Festival

For more information, see www.TCPolishFestival.org

July 17, August 14 & September 11 Culinary Vacation: "Cooking Your Way from Kraków to Zakopane"

For more information, see www.PolandCulinaryVacations.com or call 888-703-8130.

Róg Endowment and Gumminga Scholarships

Charlene Delaney, chair of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota's scholarships committee, informed the PACIM board at its April meeting that the committee had awarded the Rog Endowment to the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers. The Endowment's objective is to benefit and promote the local community and its Polish heritage. It will grant stipends of up to \$1,000 per year to individuals and/or groups who seek further professional growth, Polish language, arts and cultural study, both locally and abroad, and who are committed afterward to use what they have achieved to benefit the cause of Polish heritage here in Minnesota and Wisconsin. It was named in honor of Mr. Chester Róg, who has devoted well over a quarter century to preserving Polish heritage.

No Gumminga Scholarship awards were granted since no applications were received, according to Delaney.

monier



Zupa!

The newly updated 3rd edition of Zupa! contains 54 Polish soup recipes that have been served at our Polish Soup Festival, as well as recipes for

12 accompaniments including dumplings, uszki and pierogi. To order your copy, please send \$15 (\$10 for additional copies) checks made payable to PACIM to:

Zupa! c/o 5317 Bryant Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55419-1201

People



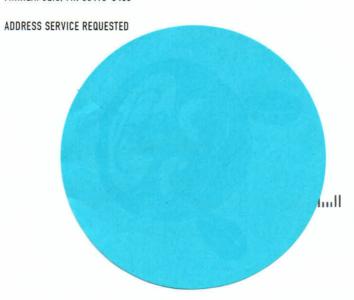
Henryk Sławik Polish Diplomat 1894–1944 A Polish soldier in WWII, and by a twist of fate found himself in Budapest where he secretly helped exiled Poles leave POW camps to join the Polish Army in the west. He issued false documents to Hungarian

Jews confirming their Polish roots and Catholicism; he founded an orphanage for Jewish children; and he helped 30,000 Polish refugees in wartime Hungary, including 5,000 Polish Jews. His activities were uncovered and he was sent to Mauthausen concentration and executed in August 1944. After the war, both Poland and Hungary recognized his humanitarian deeds. In 1992 he was named "Righteous Among the Nations" by the Yad Vashem in Israel.



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Polish Word Tips

Jaki kolor lubisz najbardziej? What color do you like the best?

Moim ulubionym kolorem jest niebieski. Uważam, ze jest mi w nim do twarzy. Blue is my favorite color. I think it suits me well.

Zgadzam się. Wygladasz świetnie w tej błękitnej sukience.

I agree. You look great in this light blue dress.

Dziękuję. Ty wygladasz też elegancko w granatowym garniturze.

Thank you. You also look elegant in the navy blue suit.

Used words and phrases

niebieski – blue błękitny – light blue, sky blue, azure granatowy – navy blue być w czymś do twarzy – wear something that fits, suits someone well; literally: fits someone's face





The Twin Cities Polish Festival is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of a matching \$10,000 grant from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008. This is a matching grant, meaning that TCPF must raise up to \$10,000 to receive the full grant.

Help the Twin Cities Polish Festival reach its fundraising goal to match this grant. Send your tax deductible donation to: Twin Cities Polish Festival (TCPF), PO Box 19312, Minneapolis, MN 55419-0312

Your donation will be acknowledged by letter as well as publicly, unless you indicate otherwise.

We thank the following:			
Thomas Glodek	\$100	Columbia Heights Sister Cities Int'l	\$200
David & Leone Zwickey	\$50	Alan & Sherry Rybak	\$25
Bruce Hebzynski	\$50	Polish American Club	\$300
Frances Jensen	\$100		