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www.pacim.org

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The Kraków Dragon (Smok) of Wawel Hill

Each year the Festival of Nations chooses a theme for the festival. Last year it was "Art". This year "Folklore & Fairy Tales" was chosen, which immediately triggers the mind of your favorite folktales and fairy tale stories. I chose to feature one of the historical favorites in Poland - that is the Smok (dragon) of Wawel Hill.

Marcin Bielski, a Polish chronicler from the 15th century, tells the story about shoemaker Skuba defeating the dragon. This most popular, fairytale version of the Wawel Dragon tale, takes place in Kraków during the reign of King Krakus, the city's legendary founder. Each day the evil dragon would beat a path of destruction across the countryside, killing the civilians, pillaging their homes and devouring their livestock. In many versions of the story, the dragon especially enjoyed eating young maidens, and could only be appeased if the townsfolk left a young girl in front of its cave once a month. The King certainly wanted to put a stop to the dragon, but his bravest knights fell to its fiery breath. In the versions involving the sacrifice of young girls, every girl in the city was eventually sacrificed except one, the King's daughter Wanda. In desperation, the King promised his beautiful daughter's hand in marriage to anyone who could defeat the dragon. Great warriors from near and far fought for the prize and failed.

One day a poor cobbler's apprentice named Skuba accepted the challenge. He stuffed a lamb with sulphur and set it outside the dragon's cave. The dragon ate it and soon became incredibly thirsty. He turned to the Vistula River for relief and drank and drank. But no amount of water could quench his aching stomach, and after swelling up from drinking half the Vistula river, he exploded. Skuba married the King's daughter as promised, and they lived happily ever after.

The festival under this theme should prove to be very interesting. I am chairing the Polish Café for the 4th year. Also visit the PACIM Polish Cultural booth, the Dolina Polish Bazaar Booth, and the Dolina Dancers performing on the World Stage. I am now accepting volunteers for the Polish Café. It's a wonderful experience. 612-810-4477, jvbien@msn.com

John Bieniek
President

Membership Form

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Please add \$5 to the above membership levels if you wish to join the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) through PACIM (a 50% discount).

Subscription Note:

Due to postal rate increases and since non-profit mail is NOT forwarded but returned postage due please add \$6 to your membership if you travel south each winter. This ensures that you will receive the newsletter by first class mail all year long wherever you may be.

Anyone else who wishes to receive the newsletter by first class mail all year long should add \$6 to their renewals.

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in English:

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Diary 1954

Tadeusz Borowski
This Way for the Gas,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Stefan Chwin
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Andrzej Stasiuk
Dukla

Library Hours:

Sundays, 1pm - 4pm
or by appointment

Zapraszamy!

We are always in need of new volunteers - if you are interested, please contact info@pacim.org

2016 The Year of Henryk Sienkiewicz

Winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1905 for *Quo Vadis* and the author of the *Trilogy*, *Teutonic Knights* and *In Desert and Wilderness*, Henryk Sienkiewicz has been named patron of 2016 in Poland.

Henryk Sienkiewicz was born in 1846 to an impoverished noble family, descended on his father's side from Tatars who settled in Lithuania in the 15th and 16th centuries.

He was one of the most outstanding and prolific Polish writers whose books are still being enjoyed in many Polish homes. Sienkiewicz died in 1916 in Vevey, Switzerland



News & Events

Great food!
Great music!
Great company!
It's Carnival Time!

PACIM's successful Bal Karnawałowy 2016 was held at The Historic Saint Paul Hotel on February 6th.

The first notes of welcome from the grand piano, exquisitely played by Bonnie Frels, set the tone for an evening of "Polish style hospitality". The grand ballroom was adrift in red and white and filled with the joyful sounds of music, laughter and friends.

After enjoying a beautifully presented and delicious meal, Ania and Steven Antus led the guests in the Polonez as dancers wound through the ballroom and promenade foyer.

Guests enjoyed the opportunity to bid on and win, among other things, Polish crystal, pottery and liqueur at the Silent Auction and over a case and a half of wine at the Wall of Wine!

Bal Karnawałowy- a night to celebrate and enjoy. See YOU next year!

Many thanks to the Bal Committee:

Greg Gramza
Charlene Kaletka Delaney
Terry Kita
And, the appreciated assistance of:
John Bieniek
Phyllis Husted
Bernard Korsak



Festival of Nations

2016 May 5 – 8th

RiverCentre

175 West Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul
MN 55112

Thursday, May 5
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Friday, May 6
9:30 AM - 10:00 PM
Saturday, May 7
10:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Sunday, May 8
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Trains & Ships: How our ancestors traveled from Poland to America

Polish Genealogical Society of
Minnesota (PGSMN)

Saturday, 5 March 2016

10am-12pm

4th floor, 1185 N. Concord St.,

South St. Paul, MN

\$2 admission

Long time PGSMN member, Jay Biedny will present a history of railroads in central Europe and America along with the history of transatlantic steamship travel in the time of peak Polish immigration to the US. He will draw on his personal collection of steamship and rail memorabilia. Immigration stations in the US including: Castle Garden, Ellis Island and Lucus Point (Baltimore) will be featured. Northern European and Mediterranean ports of departure will also be discussed. The four major steamship lines will be covered along with pictured examples of many ships of the line. Bring your questions.

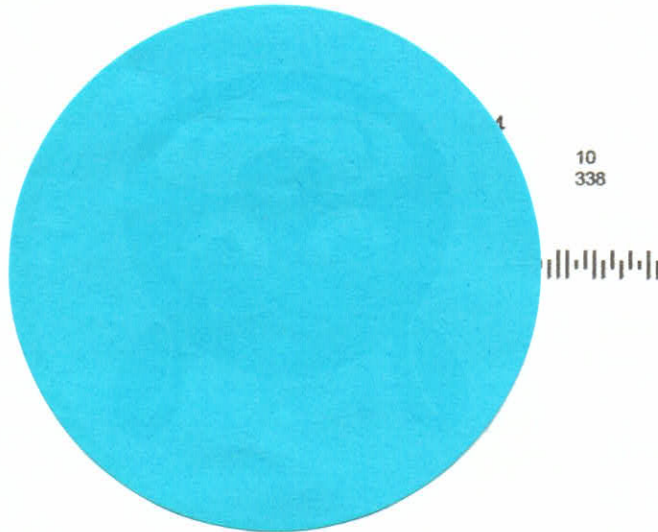
For more information see our
website: www.pgsmn.org

PACIM

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The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota graciously acknowledges receipt of several very generous donations this past year that help support its mission to "celebrate and promote Polish culture and heritage".

- Recently, PACIM was contacted by Elaine Frankowski with an offer of Polish books and an extensive music collection from the Topola Choir including recordings of many of their concerts.

- Polish children and PACIM's annual efforts to support "Dom Dziecka" in Poland were generously remembered in a bequest of the Walicki estate.

- The Polanie Club of Minneapolis heritage donation continued with PACIM a shared tradition of supporting academic scholarship for students of Polish descent.
(Look for 2016 application details in an upcoming issue of the PolAm.)

- And, a very generous bequest from the estate of John and Hazel Banasik served to nostalgically recall "growing up Polish in Northeast Minneapolis". Monies are designated to support PACIM's ongoing presence, programs and activities.

Support PACIM's outreach to young scholars, artists, and needy children by making a donation. Gifts of cash, securities or bequests strengthen the work of The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota as an active non-profit and are tax deductible.

To donate and obtain more information, visit our website at www.pacim.org or call 612.378 0201.

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