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*** WELCOME! ***

...to the latest issue of Gen Dobry!, the e-zine of PolishRoots®. If you missed previous issues, you can find them here:

<http://polishroots.org/GenDobry/tabid/60/Default.aspx>

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I know, the title of my article sounds like a joke begging for a punch line. But in this case, the punch line is success in researching what may be, to many, a minor item.

I’m a huge fan of using postcards and stamps in genealogy. I recently came across a card with quite a number of interesting possibilities. While looking through a box of unsorted European cards, I spotted one for Poznań, not a common sight in the US, but a nice find for Polish researching. I pulled it for my pile of selections and continued viewing more cards.

The front of card depicts a view of Poznań, and specifically, the area of the City Theater, with three buildings identified in both German and Polish. The buildings are the Teatr Wielki or Stadttheater, the Urząd Osadniczy or Kgl. Ansiedlungskommission, and the Kościół Pawła or Paulikirche. The title of the card is given as Poznań Teatr Wielki as well as POSEN Am Theaterplatz.

Well, Polish researchers, especially those from the Prussian partition, will easily understand the reasoning behind using both languages. The official language of Posen was German until the end of World War I, when Polish returned to the city, province, and country as a whole. When examining the card, one can see that the typeset for the German is one style and the letters for the Polish another. Simply put, the printers took a pre-existing card, printed before 1918, using German titles, and added the Polish titles for use after the Armistice. Judging by the clothing on the two figures, the card was most likely printed around 1912, during Prussian occupation.

It doesn’t take much effort to find the names of these buildings in English. The Teatr Wielki or
Stadttheater is the Great Theater (or Grand Theater) for Poles, the City Theater for Prussians. Slightly different but stating the same thing: it was the city’s major theater. An Internet search brings forth the following material.

— The City Theatre in Posen, Poland (Polish: Poznań) was built around 1910 by German architect Max Littmann as an opera house.

— The Grand Theatre in Poznań is now called Teatr Wielki im. Stanisława Moniuszki w Poznaniu, the Stanisław Moniuszko Grand Theater, was named in 1949 after the Polish composer Stanisław Moniuszko. It is the scene of the action in the comedy Poland Is Not Yet Lost by the Hungarian playwright Melchior Lengyel, whose story was made into a film by Ernst Lubitsch in 1942 under the title To Be or Not To Be (starring Jack Benny and Carol Lombard).

Also, here is a translation of some info from this Polish Wikipedia page: <http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teatr_Wielki_im._Stanisława_Moniuszki_w_Poznaniu>

“It [the Grand Theater] was designed by Max Littmann, of the Munich firm Heilmann and Littmann, over the course of 18 months as the new headquarters of the Municipal Theater, which was previously housed in an outdated building, the Arcadia. The first performance, of The Magic Flute by Mozart, was held in 1910. In 1919, it passed into Polish hands. During the interwar period, it was the site of the world premiere of Legends of the Baltic by Feliks Nowowiejski, Margier by Konstanty Gorski, and the Polish premiere of the ballet Harnasie by Karol Szymanowski. During the fighting in 1945, the building escaped serious damage, although it was a German point of resistance. In 1949, the Poznań Opera patron was Stanisław Moniuszko.”

The Urząd Osadniczy translates as “Settlement office” in English, which matches up well with German Kgl. Ansiedlungskommission, meaning Royal Settlement Commission. Kościół Pawła and Paulikirche both mean “St. Paul’s Church.” One minor omission is the term for the Theaterplatz (Theater Square) in the card’s title. My guess is the fact that the Poles were now using Teatr Wielki to include not only the building but the square as well.

This is all fine and good, and a nice addition to someone who had connections to the city of Poznań, Posen, or to any one of these three institutions.

After returning home, I usually take a longer look at my finds to see what I may have missed—in this case, a pretty big find. When looking at the message side of the card, I was surprised at the address of the recipient of the card, Filmstar Herrn Maurice Chevalier Paramount – Publix Corporation Hollywood, California USA. Wow! I just bought something which I believe a famous movie star handled, I cannot be 100% sure about that—but at the time this card was written, given the absence of e-mails and texts and such, AND given the fact that a foreign-born movie star in California received a card from Europe written in German ... Well, my guess is he most likely looked at it, at least, and read it as well. Afterwards, who knows how far it has gone before arriving in my hands.

Before we get into the message, let’s examine the card as a whole. The addressee is important
as well as the address. We are drawn to the two stamps. Both are printed Poczta Polska, which immediately tells us they were printed after Poland’s rebirth as an independent country. But let’s go a bit further, as stamps can tell us many things in themselves. Consulting one of numerous stamp catalogues available, we find the green 10 gr (groszy) stamp was issued in a set of three denominations, 5 gr dark violet, 10 gr green, and 25 gr red brown, which were used for common postage, distinct by a different color for each value. This set was issued in 1928-1929 in connection with the Poznań Agricultural Exhibition. The second stamp, commonly called a commemorative, was issued 1 November 1930 in four variations. A 5 gr violet brown, a 15 gr dark blue, a 25 gr red brown, and a 30 gr dull red, all being issued for the centenary of the Insurrection of 1830. So if we knew no dates for the card, we can safely say it was not mailed before 1 November 1930, but could have been mailed anytime afterwards.

The postmark has two separate parts. The circular cancellation stamp, common to many countries, indicates the city where it was mailed, in this case Poznań (note the Polish spelling) as well as the post office or district, 3. The letter ‘b’ in the bottom of the circle could indicate a sub-station, but only further research could settle that. The date across the middle of the circle is when it was posted, in this case 15.II.32 (15 February 1932) with the last two symbols somewhat illegible, possibly 13-24 or some combination that could indicate the time it was posted. In these days, many letters were postmarked with the time of posting, as the quantities handled by today’s mail system were not even conceived of.

The large rectangular box with corners cut off contains the words Zapisz Się Na Członka, “Sign up as a member,” followed by L.O.P.P., standing for Liga Obrony Przeciwlotniczej i Przeciwgazowej, the civilian Air Raid Precaution Service. This “banner” cancellation was used to promote any number of specific events being honored or anticipated. A quick look at our first-class mail today will often see similar cancellations.

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So now that we have dissected the card front and back, we can look at the message. Fred Hoffman took on this task, as I had difficulty reading the German script. He warned that his translation was very rough, as he had limited time to work on it. But here’s how he read it:

“Poland, 15 February 1932. Honored sir! I have again sent you the weekly Kino in which there is a picture of you in the dress of a Cowboy, in which you look very good. The picture is portrayed as a visit to William Hart. What I love to see you in is a uniform and in civilian clothes with a straw hat in your talkies. All the best wishes to you. Yours, film-admirer, H.A. / H. Auer (?), (Europe) Poznań, Wolnica 7.”

First of all, we have the writer dating the card. This is fantastic. Here the place and date of writing is Poznań, 15.2.1932. That of course makes dating the card very easy and corresponds with the dates of issues of the stamps as well as the postmark. Seems like the writer posted the card the same day as he/she wrote it. As for the message, it’s very interesting. It seems to be a fan of Maurice Chevalier commenting upon a recently seen photo of Chevalier as a cowboy; and it mentions the famous American western star William (S.) Hart. Well, this makes searching a bit easier; we now need to know when or where Maurice Chevalier was dressed as a cowboy and had some connection with William Hart.

We go to Google Images and type in “Maurice Chevalier cowboy,” and lo and behold, many images show up including two with Chevalier dressed up as a cowboy. But where is William Hart? So I tried a simple change to my search—something a lot of researchers apparently don’t try: I added “William Hart” to the search, making it “Maurice Chevalier cowboy William Hart.” We hit pay dirt as the following publicity photo showed up in Google Images <http://www.virtual-history.com/movie/moviecard/card5254>.

This photo is on another Web site, which states that it was not unusual for celebrities to pose with other celebrities they may never have worked with before: <http://classicmoviechat.com/?tag=maurice-chevalier>.

The guy to the right is none other than Maurice Chevalier, who had been signed by Paramount Pictures and brought over to the U. S. in 1928. The explanation reads as follows:

The photo we ran was a studio publicity shot of the French star being shown the American West by the veteran cowboy star, William S. Hart. It was an attempt to make the exotic Continental lover boy-crooner appear to be “just one of the boys.” Of course, Chevalier only appeared in sophisticated musical comedies. He never made a western.

Hart (the “S” was for Surrey) was born in 1870, and by the time he made his first Western for producer-director Thomas H. Ince, he was already a middle-aged at 44. The westerns he created (Hart was also a writer-director) featured documentary-style realism and plausible plots. As a result, Hart became America’s first believable cowboy hero. He often played outlaws reformed and saved by the love of a good woman. At the time of his posed publicity shot with Chevalier, Hart was pushing 60, with his movie career ending.

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On the other hand, Chevalier (breathing hard on 40 when the photo with Hart was taken) was just embarking on a Hollywood career after appearing in at least a dozen movies in his native France. The youngest of nine children sired by an alcoholic house painter, Chevalier was by his late teens a cafe and variety hall singer, embellishing his limited vocalizing with comedy bits of casual charm.

Now we have proof that Chevalier and Hart had met, but did not star in any westerns together. Actually, a simple search on IMDB (Internet Movie Data Base) shows that these two actors did not share a common feature—and, very interestingly, Hart had quit making all movies by 1926. Again, confirmation and reconfirmation of the time period of this small piece of history.

So what does all of this mean to genealogy?

Am I related to Maurice Chevalier? NO.

Am I related to William S. Hart? NO.

Am I related to a Mr. / Mrs. Auer(?) of Poznań? NO.

Have I visited Poznań? YES?

Have I visited any of the three featured buildings in Poznań? NO.

Do I have any familial connection to Poznań? NO.

Have I learned information from this card? YES. And that is the point of this article. Besides showing a small snippet of history from the Great Depression, this card tells us that in Poznań, Poland, a fan took the time to write a card of admiration for a movie star. From this action, we can learn about research techniques that may be used in genealogy.

A summation:

1. Gather historical material as you may. If you see something that has some form of story (and that is just about everything), scoop it up for others to benefit from.
2. Examine the material closely. Not just once or twice, but several times. Look at all aspects, topics, subjects, printed and handwritten words, colors, textures, and substance.
3. Use the Internet and other reference materials to research that material which you may or may not be familiar with.
4. Use Internet translators whenever possible to translate words you may not know.
5. BACK UP Internet translators with real life human translators whenever possible to confirm or correct that which the computer spits back out at you. Appreciate the knowledge these individuals have in their heads and repay them in some manner as time permits.
6. Take minor subject matter located within the research project and examine it in detail to fill out the story that is sitting in front of you.
7. Learn from what is at hand, develop the ideas, and if at all possible, remember what you
have just learned. One way to easily remember facts is to write them down as I am doing now and you’ll be surprised how long they stick with you.

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*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: German? Pole? Ukrainian? — Which Is HE?

Editor—I wrote a brief item in the last issue about Lukas Podolski, a Pole who plays on the German soccer team and whose surname refers to a region of Ukraine. I got this response.

I’ve dabbled in Genealogy for several years as it was my discovery that my “German” grandparents were born in, and emigrated from, Poland in the early 1900s that drew me into it. My mother was born in Poland (today’s Belarus), so I’m interested in both Polish and German roots.

I was never much on history when I was in school, but genealogy has introduced me to the turmoil of ethnicities, religions, and nationalities of all the peoples of Central/Eastern Europe. From my understanding of the many hundreds of years of intermingling throughout, mostly what was, Poland, I would have to conclude that the answer to your titled question is: All the above.

Bob Krampetz

Editor—No argument here. By the way, if you want to see a real mess, look into how Lithuanians, Belarusians, and Poles all claim Tadeusz Kościuszko as theirs!

As for not being too interested in history when you were in school, I’m pretty sure you’re not alone in that. I remember I did reasonably well in history, but never had any particular interest in it; it was just another class, kind of boring, but better than phys ed because it required no sweating ... Really, it’s no surprise that history doesn’t really grab you until you have some reason to care about it. Once you get interested in genealogy, history becomes relevant; then, it matters!

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Subject: Getting the Proper Polish Form of Surnames

Editor—Here’s an interesting question I never really ran into in quite this form.

Hello, just read your latest newsletter, and the article re Polish keyboard made me wonder how to type the four surnames I’m researching with the proper accents so that I may search Web sites that require the proper Polish spelling. Is there a site where I can type the surname as I know it and it comes out with the Polish spelling?

Diane R.
Editor—I don’t really know of a site that does exactly what you’re asking for. There are a couple of options, however. I find if you Google a Polish name, and it hasn’t been misspelled, except for lacking the accents, Google will often bring up a lot of matches. Some of them will be from Polish Web sites, and will give the name in correct spelling. Google—and other search engines, too, I believe—has the ability to ignore diacritical marks, which means it can find Polish names both with and without those accents and such. You may have to go through several pages of matches before you get past those with the English spelling; but there usually are some Polish matches somewhere along the line. If regular Google gives you too many irrelevant matches, try using the Polish version: <http://www.google.pl/>.

Also, you can go to this site: <http://www.herby.com.pl/indexslo.html>. This site allows searches with wild cards, symbols that can match any letter. So you can type in the name but substitute ? (which matches any letter) for every letter with a Polish diacritical mark. Then click on “Szukaj” and it should bring up all names that match that pattern. The correct Polish spelling should be among them. For instance, if you’re looking for the spelling of former Polish president Lech Wałęsa, go to that site and key in WA??SA. It will return a number of hits, but the one with the largest number is the correct one: WAŁĘSA.

If all else fails, send me the names and I’ll see if I can determine the right spellings. If I can do so, it only takes a few seconds. If I can’t determine the right spelling right away, it’s because the name is one of those tricky ones that require more research before you can nail down the correct original form.

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Subject: Frustration dealing with the archive staff

Editor—one of our readers sent this note, which I thought all of you would find informative and interesting.

I noted with great interest you mention of the availability of Polish records online. I discovered this on a just-ended trip to Poland. But I had no luck viewing any records while visiting Poland.

On this trip, which my wife and I took with a Polish cousin who lives in Stockholm, we had planned to visit several archives while we traveled through the country. My cousin, who speaks fluent Polish, had also made the effort to contact two of the archives in advance, to try to have the assistance of someone who spoke English and could help us with the research.

The first archive we visited was in Gdaňsk. When we got there, we discovered that the person who was supposed to assist us was not there, and no one could help us at all. Next we visited the archive in Poznań; again we found that the person who was to help us was not there. Instead, we were treated to a long, insulting diatribe from a “small man with a little bit of power.” I never got the full explanation from my cousin about what he said to us; but from the body language of my cousin and him, I knew he was not being pleasant, and said words to the effect that he did not care that we had traveled from Chicago in hopes of finding some family information.

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The last archive we visited was in Konin, a small archive, but central to much of my Polish family. My cousin had not made any previous arrangements with this archive and the results were much the same. The “archivist” there was confused, and told us he did not understand why we had not tried to search the online archive site. Actually, this was the first time that I had heard about the operation of this site. One of his assistants, who had some understanding of English, walked me through the process of using the site, even bringing up some images, so that I could see how it worked. I am looking forward to returning to it for myself. They also set up an in-house search for some of my family records, as long as I agreed to pay for the search. That was, of course, no problem.

Even if I had known about the site, we still would have made the trip. My frustration lies, not with hitting brick walls—I’m used to that doing family research—but with the treatment we received at the first two archives. As Poland continues its rebuilding, after the “bad old days,” one would think that there would be an effort made by the State Archives to be as welcoming as possible to tourist/researchers, and encourage people to come and search for their ancestors, who are willing to travel and spend dollars there.

In spite of the setbacks, we had a wonderful visit. Gdańsk is a beautiful town, especially its Old Town. We visited the Solidarity Monument; the surrounding area is undergoing renovation and new construction. We stayed in a beautiful, modern villa, in the hills, and had wonderful dinners of fine Polish food. Visitors should know that very few people there had any working knowledge of English; it is apparently off the beaten path for American tourists.

We did not stay long enough in Poznań to form any strong impressions; but it is a beautiful city, with much of its German-era architecture evident. We stayed four days in Konin, and visited much of the surrounding area, including the Basilica at Licheń— even though it’s a fair-sized city, one had the impression that you were in the “country.” We took a taxi from Poznań to Konin and drove along a toll road, as nice as any in the U.S.

While in Konin we visited Skulsk also, and had three days of meals at my cousin’s siblings’ homes. To say we were treated as visiting dignitaries would be an understatement. Polish hospitality to visitors is amazing. Dishes upon dishes were served, with many toasts and, of course vodka, both straight and flavored. Many of the dishes brought me back to the days of eating at my grandparents. We were able to visit the cemetery where I believe my great-great-grandparents are buried, and the nearby church where they were married and where my grandfather and his siblings were baptized.

We ended our journey with a great three days in Warsaw. There we stayed a wonderful bed and breakfast, on the north side of town, a 10 minute taxi ride to Old Town. Warsaw is a “happening place,” with lots of new construction going on. We visited Stalin’s Penis, aka, the Palace of Culture and Science, a 42-story “gift” from the Soviet people to Poland. A cab driver referred to it as a gift from “our bloody uncle.” It is very odd to see this Stalin Gothic building surrounded by new construction, including a five-level shopping center and new skyscrapers going up. More people in Warsaw had a working knowledge of English.
All in all we enjoyed our trip, but if it had not been for having a native speaker to travel with, we
would have had much more difficulty.

Paul Breit

Editor—I’m glad to hear you enjoyed your trip, even if the visits to the archives were
frustrating. Clearly, you did the right thing: you tried to arrange in advance for assistance,
instead of just showing up and expecting everyone to drop everything and serve you. It is
a shame your preparation didn’t produce better results.

I will say one thing: there’s never an excuse for rudeness, but I wouldn’t be too hard
on the archive staff. I don’t think they’re usually paid very well; and they get more than
their share of pushy foreigners with unrealistic expectations. I suspect I would get very
fed up with it, if I were working there. Still, they should have given you more credit for
trying to do things the right way.

Incidentally, I had never heard of the popular name for the Palace of Culture and
Science, but I love it. (I would repeat it, but if the appears too often, this issue of Gen
Dobry! will probably get bounced as spam.)

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*** RESPECTING POLISH HERITAGE ***

A Review of The Crowned White Eagle: My Polish Heritage by Anthony P. Kowalski
Reviewed by Magdalene & Arthur A. Wagner

(suitable for most tablet e-readers—Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and similar). <http://
bookstore.xlibris.com/Author/Default.aspx?BookworksSId=SKU-0110234050>

The Crowned White Eagle is more than a family history or genealogy book. It is a billet-doux,
a love letter to the author’s family and to the people of his parents’ country of origin, Poland.

Kowalski participated in the transition of Poland from Communism to the market economy. In
his position as director of education for the American Banking Association, he was appointed to
spend considerable time in Poland to institute training programs for personnel in the financial
industry.

While engaged in that venture, he found means to seek extended family who had remained in
Poland. He resolutely pursued small leads to find those persons and their localities.

Relatives and documents helped him tie the stories he had heard from his family in the U.S. to
those of the family who stayed in Europe.

Story after story was pieced together to form a fabric of suffering and determination, of
pragmatism and idealism. Kowalski’s mother, Mary Padykula Kowalski, was sent at the young age of 13, to live with an aunt in Trenton, New Jersey. When she realized that she was to be a mere servant, she ran away to kind cousins in Rhode Island. Kowalski traced her brothers in Poland and uncovered tales of their oppression by Nazis and Soviets and service in the World War II underground.

Each story demonstrates the persistence and loyalty of the Polish spirit. Against a background of that nation’s history, Kowalski paints a meaningful portrait of the Polish character.

As a result, this chapbook offers a capsule history of Poland, a family saga, a saintly Pope with human flaws, and an inspirational conclusion:

One cannot reflect long on the history of the Polish people and the story of my family without deep feelings of solidarity with the oppressed of this earth. It could not be otherwise. The lessons are painted with blood and agony. Seeing the results of pure hatred has led me to a greater identification with the poor, the suffering and the despised of this earth. It has also distilled in me a deeper admiration for beloved brothers and sisters.

Anthony P. Kowalski has published another book, *Married Catholic Priests* (2005), and many journal articles. He was educated at St. Mary’s College, Orchard Lake, Michigan (B.A.); Fordham (M.A.) and NYU (Ph.D.). His careers included educator, minister, executive, and reformer.

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*** 98TH LITHUANIAN DAYS ***

*Tom Sadauskas*

*Editor*—Tom Sadauskas, a gentleman who does serious research into his Polish and Lithuanian research, sent me this information on the annual Lithuanian Days in Frackville, Pennsylvania. Tom will be giving brief talks at this event, and will man a table to answer questions. While this event is obviously Lithuanian rather than Polish, experience tells me there are quite a few folks with Polish roots who also have Lithuanian roots. Besides, who needs an excuse to go to a Festival?!

**98**th **LITHUANIAN DAYS**

*Sponsored by Knights of Lithuania*

*Council 144 – “The Anthracite Council”*

*Schuylkill Mall, Frackville, Center Court*

*SATURDAY, August 11
11:30 a.m. “Sensations” Musical group*

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12:15 p.m.  Opening Parade: Welcome: Paul Domalakes Prayer – Partisan Color guard –
Introduction of Vendors; Pa National Guard
12:45  Thomas Sadauskas, Lithuanian Genealogy
1:00  Malunas Dance Group
1:45  Theme Speech folklore/sports
1:30  Augis – Pop and folk singer
2:00  Sing Along (Mike, Tom Dura and Lynne Cox)
2:45  Sensations’ musical group
3:15  Malunas Dance Group
3:45  Mike and Tom Dura du Broliukai
4:15  Zilvinas Dance Group
4:45  Lithuanian Elementary Scholarship Announcements
5:00  Knights of Lithuania Close

SUNDAY, August 12
11:30 a.m.  Sensations
NOON  Opening – Music Sensations Introduction of vendors, welcome
12:15  Augis Pop and folk Lithuanian Singer
1:00  Gintaras Dancers (Children Dancers from Mahanoy City)
1:30  Thomas Sadauskas, Lithuanian Genealogy
1:45  Zilvinas Dance Group
2:15  Sensations
2:45  Augis Lithuanian pop and folk Singer
3:15  Zilvinas Dance Group – audience participation dancing
3:45  Sing-Along Lynne Cox, Mike and Tom Dura
4:15  Campfire sing-along with Chris partisans Lynne Cox, du Brolikai and Augis
4:45  Drawing of winning prizes
5:00  Closing, Sensations, Partisans, Anthem

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*** POLISHORIGINS ON FACEBOOK ***

by Zenon Znamirowski

Editor—Here’s some more info Zenon shared with those who’ve signed up for the PolishOrigins newsletter, and I thought all of you would want to know about it.

For quite a while we have been wondering how many of you, genealogy geeks, are also fans of Facebook. You may like this social network or hate it, but you can’t ignore the fact that it’s there and it has millions of users around the world? Having given the matter a little thought, we reach the following conclusion: If Facebook can help us to improve our communication with you, PolishOrigins members, while attracting new fans of Polish genealogy, then why not?

If you are not all that keen on FB and staying away from it was one of your New Year’s
resolutions, please rest assured: the PolishOrigins Forum, tools and services such as the Forefathers’ Traces Tours, will remain the focus of our attention and efforts. Thanks to its dedicated members, the PolishOrigins Forum has helped hundreds of people around the world in their search of their family history. Our Forefathers’ Traces Tours have allowed dozens of people to come and see the homeland of their ancestors. We shall keep on providing and improving these services.

Our Facebook page, <http://facebook.com/PolishOrigins>, is meant to serve our current and potential members as another means of communication. We want to use it to share with you the most interesting events in our community, links to interesting discussions on our Forum, and new developments on PolishOrigins.

We promise that we shall not bombard you, our Facebook fans, with hourly status updates or links to scores of articles or videos. Our messages will be going out to you at palatable intervals. We want to listen to you carefully. PolishOrigins page on Facebook may become another channel of our two-way communication. However, we want our PolishOrigins Forum to remain the main place where your genealogy mysteries and obstacles are being overcome by united efforts of our wonderful community.

Come and visit us on: facebook.com/PolishOrigins and, if you want, you can “Like us” now (or later :-))!

Zenon & the PolishOrigins Team

Editor—Amen!

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*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

August 2 – 5, 2012

38TH ANNUAL BOYNE FALLS POLISH FESTIVAL
Boyne Falls, Michigan

<http://www.boynefallspolishfestival.com/>

[From a note posted by “Helene” to the Polish Genius mailing list.]

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Saturday and Sunday, August 11 – 12, 2012

98TH ANNUAL LITHUANIAN FESTIVAL
“Lithuanian Customs & Traditions”
Schuylkill Mall, Route 61 and I-81
Frackville, Pennsylvania

This event, billed as the “longest running consecutive ethnic festival in the USA,” will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The main guest speaker will be John R. Makus, but Tom Sadauskas will be giving short talks on Lithuanian genealogy. He will also be available at his genealogy table to answer questions. As he says, “I must be a glutton for punishment since I will be there both days providing free advice.”

If you can make it, it should be fun—and be sure to stop and say hi to Tom.

[From an e-mail from Tom Sadauskas]

August 12, 2012
SUMMER MEETING OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
Social Hall of the Polish Museum of America
984 N. Milwaukee Ave
Chicago, Illinois
2 p.m.

Mr. Richard Kujawa, Operations Manager of the Polish Museum of America will discuss the ways in which Paderewski supported and encouraged the Polish Community in the United States. His talk will be followed by a tour of the newly renovated Paderewski Room, completed in 2009. The Polish Museum of America lays claim to having a collection of the most significant artifacts of his life: both as a musician and statesman. The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL. There is a large enclosed parking lot adjacent to the museum.

[From the July issue of the PGSA Notebook]

August 12 – 17, 2012

GENEALOGY “SUMMER CAMP”
Toronto, Canada
Toronto Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

Genealogy “Summer Camp” is a unique program (for adults) that brings out-of-town family historians to Toronto for an intensive week of tutorials and hands-on research at the many archives and reference libraries in the city. If you have ancestors from Toronto or other parts of Ontario, there are many resources here for you. Local family historians are also welcome to participate as “day campers.” We take full advantage of Toronto’s great public transit system, and we keep the group small to allow lots of help from our local experts.
We’ll help you spend more time finding information about your ancestors—and less time finding the archives.

This will be our 16th Summer Camp. More than 125 participants from England, right across Canada and many US states have attended the 15 previous Summer Camps—some more than once!

Genealogy “Summer Camp” 2012 will take place from August 12-17. The Summer Camp fee for 2012 is $230 (Cdn), which covers approximately 7 hours of lectures and tutorials, 25 hours of hands-on instruction and all worksheets and handouts.

For details as to venues, resources, tutorials and accommodation, and to download an application package, visit <http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/summercamp.html>, or contact Jane MacNamara at <info@torontofamilyhistory.org>.

Applications should be received by 11 June 2012. [Obviously, this deadline has passed; but we’re reprinting this as a reminder for anyone who registered.]

[From a note sent out by Gwyneth Pearce, <publicity@torontofamilyhistory.org>]

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August 31 – September 3, 2012

TASTE OF POLONIA
Copernicus Center
5216 W. Lawrence Ave. Chicago, IL 60630

<http://tasteofpolonia.copernicuscenter.org/>

[Brought to my attention by a note posted by “Raven Fan” to the Polish Genius mailing list.]

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Saturday, September 8, 2012
WASHINGTON DC FAMILY HISTORY CENTER
10000 Stoneybrook Dr., Kensington, MD
9:30 am to 10:30 am

Tom Sadauskas will be giving a presentation at the Washington DC Family History Center in Kensington MD. His topic will be “The International Tracing Service” with a focus on their holdings of displaced person (DP) records.

For more information, see <http://www.wdcfhc.org/test/index.php>

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September 29 – 30, 2012

POLISH FESTIVAL LOS ANGELES
3424 W. Adams Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90018

Live Entertainment, Food, Dancing, Games & More! $5 Admission for adults. $3 for students and seniors. Kids under 16 free!

<https://www.facebook.com/PolishFestivalLA>

[From a note posted by Lynda Snider to the Polish Genius Mailing List]

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October 20, 2012
PGS-MICHIGAN ANNUAL SEMINAR
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. • Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
American Polish Cultural Center, Troy, Michigan

The Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan will hold its annual seminar on Saturday, October 20, 2012 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan. Featured speakers are Matthew Bielawa and Mark Bowden. Matthew will speak about researching in Galicia and Ukraine, while Mark will speak about using the resources at the Burton Collection at the Detroit Public Library.

The cost for the day-long seminar is $65 per individual and $100 per couple. This includes a continental breakfast and Polish lunch. PGSM is now a 501 (c) 3 and this event is partially funded by the Michigan Humanities Council. Details and the registration form are on the Web site:

<http://pgsm.org/seminarfeatured.htm>

[From a note sent by Valerie Koselka of PGSM]

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*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***

<http://blog.dearmyrtle.com/2012/06/scan-while-you-still-can.html>

This entry from Dear Myrtle’s genealogy blog is a good reminder why we should never put off scanning and saving the documents and info we’ve accumulated.

<http://tinyurl.com/d3au5dn>

On the LidaRoots list, Tony Gabis posted this link, which lets you access a Facebook
photo album of the Polish resistance in the Nowogródek area (now Navahrudak, Belarus) during World War II, with commentary in Polish.

<http://genealogybooklinks.com/>

The 16 July 2012 issue of EOGN [Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter] mentioned that this is a great online tool. It was created by Mollie Lynch of Clarkston, Michigan, a retired librarian who wanted to help people trying to find genealogy books. “She knew that thousands of American biographies, genealogies and history books have been digitized and made available on the Internet, usually free of charge. However, there was no single resource of ‘what is available and where.’ Mollie decided to create that resource.” Good for her—now, let’s not waste the work she’s done for us!

<http://javlb.org/educat/tradicijos/curse.html>

One of the participants on the LithGen list posted this Web site, which gives examples of “How Lithuanians Curse.” Even if you have no Lithuanian roots—and a lot of our readers do—it’s a very interesting article. Many Americans are a little surprised to learn that folks in the Old Country had a different way of cursing: less concentration on “filth” (however you define it), more on intent and ingenuity. Similarly, Polish curses such as “Psiakrew cholera!” are not dirty, as we’d define it. But they aren’t exactly expressions of benevolence, either.

<http://www.polskie-cmentarze.com/artlook/mapka/index.php#wielkopolskie>

On the Poland list, Eveline Tiefenbach offered this site, which has a map where you can search for cemeteries. First click on the province or województwo on the map, and on the right, a list will appear of localities available. It lists village names on the right; those marked with a G are connected to GroboNet, and clicking on the G will take you to the search engine for that cemetery. Enter the surname in the box and you get photos of any matches. For instance, a search for “Wojciechowski” in the Radom listing brings up a photo of the grave of Stanisław Wojciechowski, 11 Dec 1921 to 39 Jan 1993, buried in the Orthodox Cemetery in Radom. Click “Więcej,” which means “More,” to get a photo and a map showing exactly where the grave is. Pretty cool, especially if the number of cemeteries included grows.

<http://goo.gl/maps/02rI>

On the LithGen list, Chris C. said, “I’ve been working on converting the list of Epaveldas parishes [in Lithuania] into a Google Map. You can see the incomplete map at [the above URL] ... I want to repeat this with the FHC LDS films, and also what is in the Suwałki archive that wasn’t captured by the LDS.” There are some problems with doing so. If you have ideas or can help, contact me and I’ll give you Chris’s e-mail address.

<http://semanchuk.com/gen/JustWhoDoYouThinkYouAre/GalizienDeutsche.html>

During an interesting discussion on the Polish Genius list, Debbie Greenlee answered a
question about Germans living in Galicia, and quoted Phil, the administrator of the Bukowsko Triangle list, who had given her some pointers on the subject. He suggested that this site is worth checking for further info. Danuta Janina Wójcik added that this Wikipedia site also discusses Germans settling in Poland: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walddeutsche>.

<http://www.abadpennyreview.com/the-polish-lesson/>
Mark Lewandowski posted this link to the Polish American Writers / Editors group on Facebook. It’s ... well, different.

<http://lomza.blogspot.com>
On the JewishGen newsgroup, Barbara Mannlein posted a note about a site with photos of the Łomża Jewish cemetery. “One has to click on the different blog entries to view individual stones, and there is no index, but the photos are fascinating.”

Tom Sadauskas sent this link about the latest effort to restrict public access to the Social Security Death Index. Tom hopes we can get the word out and nip things in the bud ... While we’re on the subject, the latest issue of Nu? What’s New? had a brief article by Gary Mokotoff, “SSDI: I Just Had a Talk with My Banker.” Basically, his banker told him that Congress’s notion of banning public access to the Death Master File (Social Security Death Index) to forestall identity theft will have no effect on that and other illegal uses of Social Security numbers of recently deceased persons. Gary ended by saying, “Once again Congress has come up with a non-solution to a problem that penalizes the honest and allows the dishonest to continue their practices.” Gary hit the nail right on the head.

Debbie Greenlee noted an article in the July 1st issue of Nu? that says the International Tracing Service (ITS) has issued its annual report for 2011. The PDF, in German and English, can be found at the above URL. Numerous researchers, including the aforementioned Tom Sadauskas, have taken advantage of the information ITS makes available, and serious researchers have included it among the sources they rely on. The Nu? article added, “There was a hint of possible future online access with the statement, ‘The new ITS agreement also envisages external access options to the database. The first technical requirements were implemented in 2011.’”

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/special/ourcityourworld/ukraine/what-was-that-name-again-160104825.html>
The East European Genealogical Society periodically sends out sources and tips to members, and the last installment included this link, to an article about Ukrainian name changes in Canada that appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press. We have plenty of readers with Ukrainian
roots, as well as Poles who lived in Ukraine. For that matter, the subject is relevant to Poles, too, since Ukrainian and Polish names are often similar, and met similar fates in North America.

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