

Park tribute is the bear necessity to honour Polish army

A November 4 article by Catherine Salamond tells of... A NEW memorial to honour the thousands of Scottish-based Polish soldiers - and one bear - who fought in the Second World War is to be (was) unveiled in Edinburgh.

The tribute, organised by community activists, is designed to celebrate the historic links between Edinburgh and Poland, which span hundreds of years.

The three-stone structure is to be erected this week in Broughton's Redbraes Park, ahead of its official unveiling on Remembrance Sunday - also Polish Independence Day.

As well as featuring inscriptions written in both languages, it will include a sculpture of Voytek the soldier bear - the much-loved and celebrated member of the Polish army who spent his final years in Edinburgh Zoo, dying in 1963.

The project is the brainchild of community police officer Simon Daley, who has dedicated three years of his own time to the monument - an attraction which he hopes will unite the community.

He said: "I wanted to bring the two cultures together and thought the best way to do it would be through our shared history and a memorial to celebrate that."

"While some Poles have settled here in the last few years, there has been a Polish community since the 17th century and, of course, an even larger one since the war."

Pc Daley said inspiration for the project came after a vicious attack on a Polish man three years ago in the city's Pilrig Heights.

He believes there is great ignorance of the historic links between the two countries, particularly the fact that during the Second World War, when the Polish army in exile was based in Scotland, it stood as a defence against Nazi invasion.

He said: "The monument is already making a great impact, with Poles really appreciating the idea. I hope everyone will come to have a look and schools will use it to explore our shared history."

The monument is made of sandstone and has been funded by donations from the community. The sculpture of Voytek - designed by artist Alan Herriot - is being supplied on a temporary basis, with hopes that more money can be generated to create another permanent one at the site.

Polish and Scottish children will tell the story of Voytek - who was found by the Polish Army in Iran in 1943 and spent the rest of the war as a "bear soldier" carrying ammunition for troops - at the ceremony.

Marek Straczynski, president of the Polish Ex-Combatants Association, helped with the project.

He said: "We very much see this as something to allow people to remember that the Polish were fighting for all our freedom. I hope too that it will further deepen Scottish and Polish relations."

Edinburgh North MP Mark Lazarowicz and the Polish consul general will lay a wreath at the ceremony, while a piper will perform both national anthems. It will begin at 3pm.

Historic links show countries aren't really Poles apart

Records show strong historic links between Scotland and Poland, with as many as 30,000 Scots having emigrated there by the 1600s.

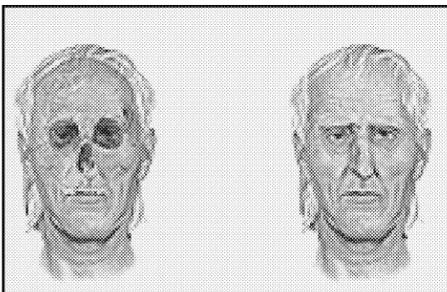
But it was not until the Second World War that large numbers of Poles came here - Scotland had more Polish soldiers than the rest of the UK - firstly when the Polish navy fought alongside the British against German invasion.

The first significant arrival of Poles was on September 1, 1939, when four Polish destroyers arrived in Leith, just one of the many Scottish ports which eventually saw Polish ships come and go throughout the war.

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Polish tests "confirm Copernicus"

Computer technology helps reconstruct image of Copernicus



An article by Adam Easton in the BBC News, Warsaw tells that researchers in Poland say they have solved a centuries-old mystery and identified the remains of astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus.

A comparison of DNA from a skeleton in Poland and strands of the astronomer's hair found in a book in Sweden almost certainly confirm it is his skeleton.

Archaeologists found the skeleton in north-eastern Poland three years ago in a cathedral where Copernicus lived. He worked in Frombork Cathedral on the Baltic Sea coast in the 16th Century.

Copernicus made the key scientific discovery that the Earth orbits the Sun. For many years he was a canon and only carried out his astronomical studies in his spare time. People had speculated about his final resting place for centuries.

Teeth DNA

Three years ago, archaeologists dug up a skull and partial remains of a man aged about 70, Copernicus' age when he died, near an altar at the cathedral.

Jerzy Gassowski, the leader of the archaeologists' team, said forensic facial reconstruction of the skull found that it bore a striking resemblance to existing portraits of the father of modern astronomy.

Scientists then matched the DNA from one of the skull's teeth and a femur bone with two strands of Copernicus' hair. The hair was found in a book once owned by the astronomer now kept in Sweden's Uppsala University. □

Polish president in Georgia shooting row

A November 24 article in the EU observer.com written by Philippa Runner reports, Polish President Lech Kaczyński has accused Russian soldiers of shooting toward his motorcade in Georgia, calling on the EU and NATO to "draw consequences" from the incident.

"I know from their cries that they were Russian. I also know from the president of Georgia, there are Russian checkpoints in this region," Mr. Kaczyński said after the shooting on Sunday (23 November), Polish agency PAP reports.

"The trip along this dark road taught me a lot. I want to appeal to our friends in the union, in the US and also to NATO countries that don't belong to the EU, to draw consequences from this before it is too late."

The French EU presidency said its embassy in Georgia is looking into the events, which took place at 17:40 local time near the border with the Akhlagori district - a disputed patch of ground near the Russian-held South Ossetia region.

The Polish head of state was travelling in a convoy with Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili to visit a refugee camp when they diverted toward Akhlagori, stopping about 30 metres from the border and stepping out of their limousines.

"The second we got out of the car there were a few salvos, I think into the air. First, I looked to see what was happening,

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Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies - 2009 \$5,000 Award

The Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies Program, which was initially endowed by the Conrad R. Walas family, is administered solely by the American Council for Polish Culture. Qualified applicants must send all of the material described in the two pages attached to this notice so that it is received on or before March 15, 2009 (faxes not accepted). Original copies of all materials must be mailed to the Chairman and duplicate copies to the other four ACPC Pulaski Scholarships Committee members:

Mr. Marion V. Winters, MA, Chairman
51 Camile Rd.
Webster MA 01570-3148

Mrs. Deborah M. Majka, MS
812 Lombard St. #12
Philadelphia PA 19147-1308

Mr. Peter J. Obst, MA
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Levittown P A 19056-2722

Mrs. Anna-Mae Maglaty, MS ED
35 Ferridge Rd.
West Hartford CT 06107-1425

Mrs. Carolyn L. Meleski, MS
10020 Reese Rd.
Clarkston MI 48348-1856

At least one scholarship grant of \$5,000 is available for the 2009 competition. If a copy of the application requirements is not published with this news announcement, a copy may be obtained by visiting the ACPC website: www.polishcultureacpc.org or contacting Mr. Winters at e-mail [<mvwinters@charter.net>](mailto:mvwinters@charter.net) or tel. (508) 949-0160. Questions concerning the requirements should be directed to Mr. Winters.

All materials submitted by applicants will become part of the records of the American Council for Polish Culture and will not be returned. Late, incomplete or unsigned applications will not be accepted or returned for correction. The decisions of the ACPC Pulaski Scholarships Committee are final and not subject to review.

Gen. Casimir Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies - 2009

I. Qualifications

A. Applicant must be a citizen of the United States of America and of Polish ancestry.

B. Applicant must be a classified graduate student enrolled at an accredited university in the United States and must have completed at least one year of studies at the graduate level.

C. Prior winners of an ACPC Pulaski Scholarship are ineligible.

II. Application (Completion of an application form is not required)

A. Submit a resume, including: a) the name and relationship to you of the nearest family member(s) from whom you ascribe your Polish ancestry; b) a description of your academic and career goals; c) a section listing the postgraduate courses in which you are currently enrolled if not shown on your transcript, and d) a brief statement as to what significance a \$5,000 scholarship will have for you.

B. Submit a copy of your most recent official (not downloaded) university transcript, including GPA.

C. Submit a letter of recommendation from a faculty member with whom you are studying or have studied at your current postgraduate level. If the letter is sealed by the faculty member, send the sealed letter to the Committee Chairman, who will distribute copies to the other Committee Members.

D. Research

1. Master's Candidate

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Janek's Corner

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Modern museums, the same history

When history is described, it happens that two people have different views on certain events. My grandfather, who was a soldier during WWII, used to tell me that, "There is the history, and there is a history." He has never revealed parts of his breath-taking story, because he felt that it would not be parallel to what is being taught. No one is able to imagine what it must have been like during WWII and no one really wants to have similar experiences.

However, history affects national identity greatly and it is imperative for each and every one of us to be aware of our past. To achieve that, we commonly read books, listen to our grandparents speaking about their childhood or watch historic movies. In addition to this, we popularly attend various historic events which are being organized annually by city councils or by the government. Nevertheless, museums top the list of the sources from which we obtain our knowledge about history. In this article I would like to familiarize you with newly opened museums of the modern history of Poland.

The Warsaw Uprising Museum has quickly become the top destination of every field trip around Warsaw. It is located in the centre of Warsaw, easily connected with the Central Warsaw train station, and it can be also easily seen from long distances thanks to its tower with the famous sign known as "Polska Walcząca" or "Kotwica," of Home Army and Polish Secret State, which existed under the Nazi occupation. It is not only its location that attracts hundreds of visitors daily, but more importantly it is its incredible interior and interactive exhibitions that make the Warsaw Uprising Museum a landmark spot in Warsaw. From the very entrance to the museum one is being attacked by various technological advances that generate millions of stimuli which are being transferred into one's imagination. One is suddenly a part of the sixty-two-day-long activities of insurgents of Warsaw who tried to save themselves and their city. One can be on the phone with the actual Warsaw Uprising fighters speaking about their own experiences. To understand the importance of this uprising it is crucial to note that women and children in large numbers were involved. Speaking of children, an absolutely stunning collection of the letters, post stamps and postal memorabilia from the Warsaw Uprising is being shown in the big hall. The letters of ordinary people who lived in Warsaw during the Uprising were delivered by hundreds of youngsters who worked as postmen. They were traveling around Warsaw, trying to deliver as many letters and notes as possible. A part of the museum is dedicated especially to them. This space includes a meticulously constructed drain pipe that was used as their way of getting around Warsaw. All objects shown in the Warsaw Uprising Museum are thoroughly described, which allows visitors to follow each day of the Uprising on their own. Various movies and audio texts highlight the complexity of this risky venture that unfortunately ended up sadly. These are only a few amazing examples of what the Warsaw Uprising Museum has to offer.

A very similar to the Warsaw Uprising Museum in type is the Poznań Museum of June 1956. It is dedicated to commemorate a famous workers' uprising

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