

Polish Daily 1795



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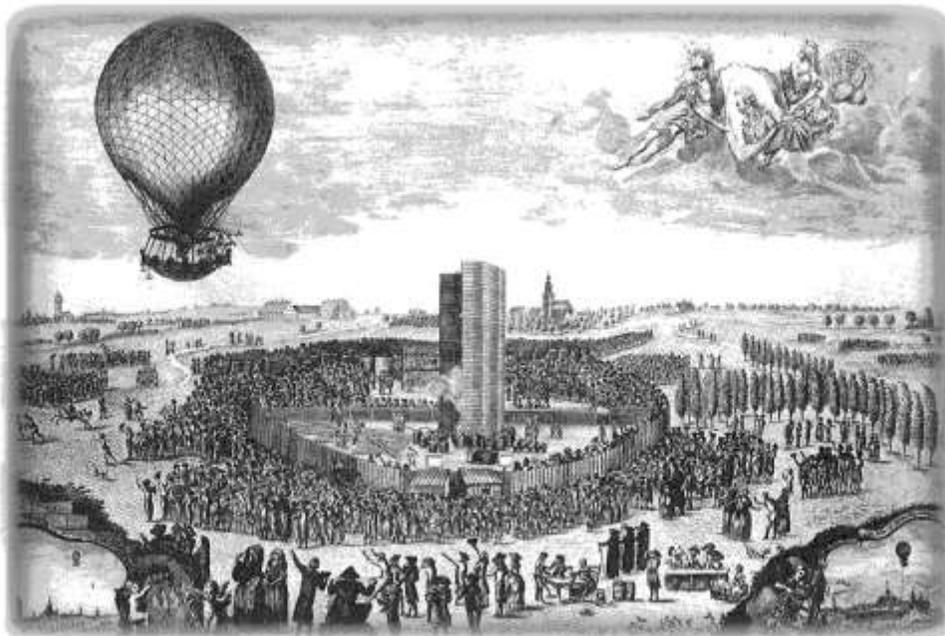
| * *And much more...*





It was the memorable Sunday, 10th of May at 13'o clock when the air balloon took off for a flight. It was piloted by Frenchman **Jean-Pierre Blanchard**, the inventor and pioneer in the balloon industry. The extraordinary event occurred at Foksal garden accompanied by the king *Stanisław Poniatowski*.

The balloon landed in the area of 'podwarszawska Białotęka'. The flight went on for forty nine minutes. Blanchard lifted the craft to an astonishing altitude of two kilometers and covered the distance of seven kilometers. Four days later on the 14th of May 1789 the flight was carried out anew, though this time accompanied by *Jan Potocki* - a traveler and writer, who brought over his Turkish servant *Ibrahim* and a white dog along with him.



A drawing commemorating Blanchard's flight over Frankfurt



Jean-Pierre Blanchard

All of them came to an altitude of 2500 meters and after 30 minutes landed in 'Wola'. This event resulted in Jan Potocki becoming the first Pole to fly an aircraft. In order to commemorate the flights the king Stanisław August Poniatowski ordered to forge a medal with the appearance of the French aeronaut embedded into it. This incredible occurrence later became the main inspiration behind the book "Balloon" written by one of the most prominent Polish writers - Adam Naruszewicz.

Wiktor Dykas, I T a





King Stanislaw August invites every Thursday the most outstanding Polish intellectuals to Łazienki palace. He organizes these meetings so that the members of the meetings can give the most excellent opinion about him. In these meetings participate the best writers. They take part in the cultural life. Feasters perch on the outside of tables that are arranged in a horseshoe. Naruszewicz and Trembecki take the best places by the king. Everyone wear the best clothes as they wait for Ignacy Krasicki. He is a rare guest, but always expected by the people coming to these meetings.

Women never take part in these kind of gatherings.

Paul Tremo, the best chef cooks meals for meetings. Drinking wine is limited to one symbolic glass of the Hungarian wine, called by the king "*Popiel*", but Naruszewicz is the only person who has the right to drink two glasses. Different meals are served: borsch with dumplings, cold cooked meats, and king's favorite mutton roast.

Amongst participants are Józef Wybicki and Stanislaw Konarski who give the project of the reform for the education. He says that school should teach practical knowledge, science and the mother tongue.



Participants of the thursday dinners depicted on the painting "Conference at king Stanisław August's place" by Włodzimierz Łuski, 1891.

Also Latin and rhetoric shouldn't be so important. In the school there should be more manual and physical classes and the Christian attitude to life. The theme associated with the statehood appeared only once during the meeting and only for a short time as this topic was boring. Different kinds of jokes appear during meetings. The king at such meetings experiences relaxation, escapes from political difficult problems and torments of everyday life. Conversations are spontaneous. Many times the king gives the topics for discussion, but it doesn't cause stiff character of meetings. Conversations proceed freely and burst of laughter isn't missing. At six o'clock p.m the king finishes the meeting and says goodbye to guests. After that he goes to have some rest.

Thursday Dinners

We are currently in the Council Chamber at the Royal Castle. We were asked by the king Stanisław August to gather and discuss art in Poland.

Nowadays, among the leading intellectuals in the Polish art there are such names as Ignacy Krasicki, Stanisław Poniąkowski, Hugo Kołłątaj, Ignacy Nagurczewski and Adam Naruszewicz.

The king decides that these meetings will be held on every Thursday under the name „Thursday Dinners”.

During the meetings we will mainly talk about painting, significance of literature or the Commission of Education in our country.

I would like to ensure you that every meeting will have a positive influence on the future of art and education in Poland.



The King Stanisław August Poniatowski

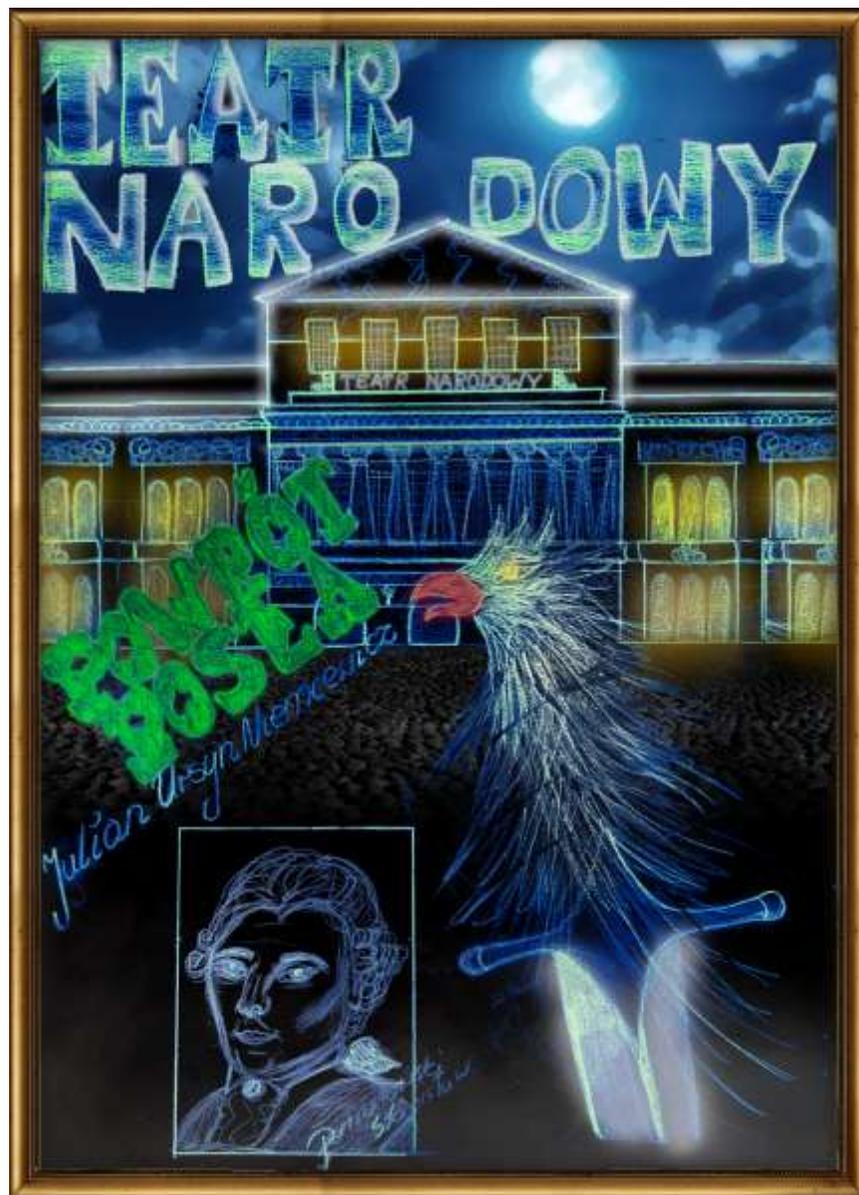
Łukasz Stala



National Theatre is born!

The year 1765 will remain forever in the hearts of artists. This year the magnificent National Theatre came into being. Our gracious King Stanisław August Poniatowski is its founder. One of the first performances shown in the theatre will be „The return a Member of Parlament ". It is a political comedy written by Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz. This play is a reaction to the outer and inner political situation in Poland. One of the main roles will be played by the Director himself, and, at the same time, the author of the work. We invite all connoisseurs of art, people from the world of politics, artists as well as ordinary citizens to enjoy the unique spectacle.

Marcelina Domoń, I T c





Franciszek Bohomolec: *Greetings Your Excellency the Archbishop. Thank you for coming despite your very tight schedule.*

Ignacy Krasicki: Good morning! I always have time to talk to such excellent chronicler as I know that the conversation can be very interesting.

F.B.: *Thank you, Your Excellency for these respects, but you are the star of the conversation. Tell me, please, how you became a priest.*

I.K.: I come from an impoverished aristocratic family. I have chosen the clerical state not because of vocation, but because my parents convinced me. They wanted me to have a dignified life. After the ordination to the priesthood I went to Rome to study. I held various positions. I was the bishop of Warmia and I'm a Gniezno archbishop now.

F.B.: *Let today's interview be concerned with your literary achievements. When did your career begin?*

I.K.: The year 1775 was the landmark year when I read out excerpts of mock-heroic poem titled "Myszeidos" during one of famous Thursday dinners organized by our graciously reigning king.

F.B.: *I remember this event as I was present at this meeting and I could hear your presentation. What literary genres do you like to use?*

I.K.: My creation is mostly based on antic origin. I write fairy tales, heroic poems, satires. My novels titled "Mikołaj Doświadczynski's Adventures" and "Mr. Podstoli" are a new genre. I'm very proud of them!

F.B.: *What message is contained in your texts?*

I.K.: I blame stupidity and backwardness of the society. I proclaim the praise of reforms, changes as well as science and human reasoning. There was a division of a part of the Polish lands in 1772 caused by people who didn't care of welfare of our state. I experienced the drama, because my property become included into the areas of Prussia.

F.B.: **The Archbishop's convictions are clearly defined. Is it true that you persuade people to submit to the king?**

I.K.: I think that the Polish nation has to respect, value and be loyal to the king because His Majesty August Poniatowski is extremely educated, honest and clever person.

F.B.: **Apparently, you had known the prince August Poniatowski before he became the king.**

I.K.: It's true. We have been friends for many years. I got to know him when we were young. He has already been a noble person.

F.B.: Your Excellency, you are a V.I.P. at Thursday dinners. What do you think about them?

I.K.: They are afternoon literary and scientific feasts for us all . They usually take place at the Royal Castle and , as you know from your own experience (significant smile) we are talking about art, science, literature. I think they represent an extraordinary spiritual feast for all intellectuals.

F.B.: I'm of the same opinion. I'd like to thank Your Excellency for the interview. You are our Polish Poets' Prince and I wish you would write many another excellent texts.

I.K. : Thank you! It was a nice meeting!



Maria Rajpold, IV T b



ON-THE-SPOT REPORT

A great commotion is building up in the courtroom of kings castle, for an incident occurred that left the people startled and baffled. A man of great love to his country starts screaming in grieve as he implores to take his life instead and let the motherland live. Out of sheer despair he throws himself onto the ground, rips the shirt in two and displaying his chest swears to protect the beloved land. What a courage, what a sacrifice, a man that is ready to give up on his live to prevent Poland from being partitioned. He is forbidden to the entrance to the proceedings room and is not intending to listen. The castle is filled with plenty people, but their reactions surely differ. Some of them have their eyes on stalks, some are driven up the wall and there are others whom the situation does not bother at all. A word about the incident commenced to spread all around the hall as it was echoing from one to other wall. On one side Stanisław Potocki, with ambivalent look glares at the ground, while Franciszek Ksawery Bienicki hides his face behind his hand. On the other side Adam Poniński with a grumpy look on his face points towards the knights standing right behind the gates.



Rejtan lying on the floor depicted in the "Rejtan, or the Fall of Poland" painting by Jan Matejko.

"This day is not a covenant signed, but Poland being done for awaits us all!"

Due to the circumstance even the king's face became pale as he stood there with a dull expression and a resigned stare. Chaos spread all around the castle. Karol Radziwił who was a brawler and wealthy magnate Franciszek Potocki is standing carelessly with prince Fryderyk Czartoryski and Michał Jerzy Poniatowski. What a preposterous event occurred at that castle, certainly no one anticipated such a hustle! I was there, I witnessed the event personally and greatly deplored over all the bedlam and anarchy. Many people are raising their eyebrow, for Rejtan in all his enragement continues to lay on the floor with no intention to put an end to blocking the door. Hugon Kolltąj's face is indicating his objection, somewhere in the distance a one young nobleman is wielding a sword and the second one with hands up in the air is distressed by the brawl.

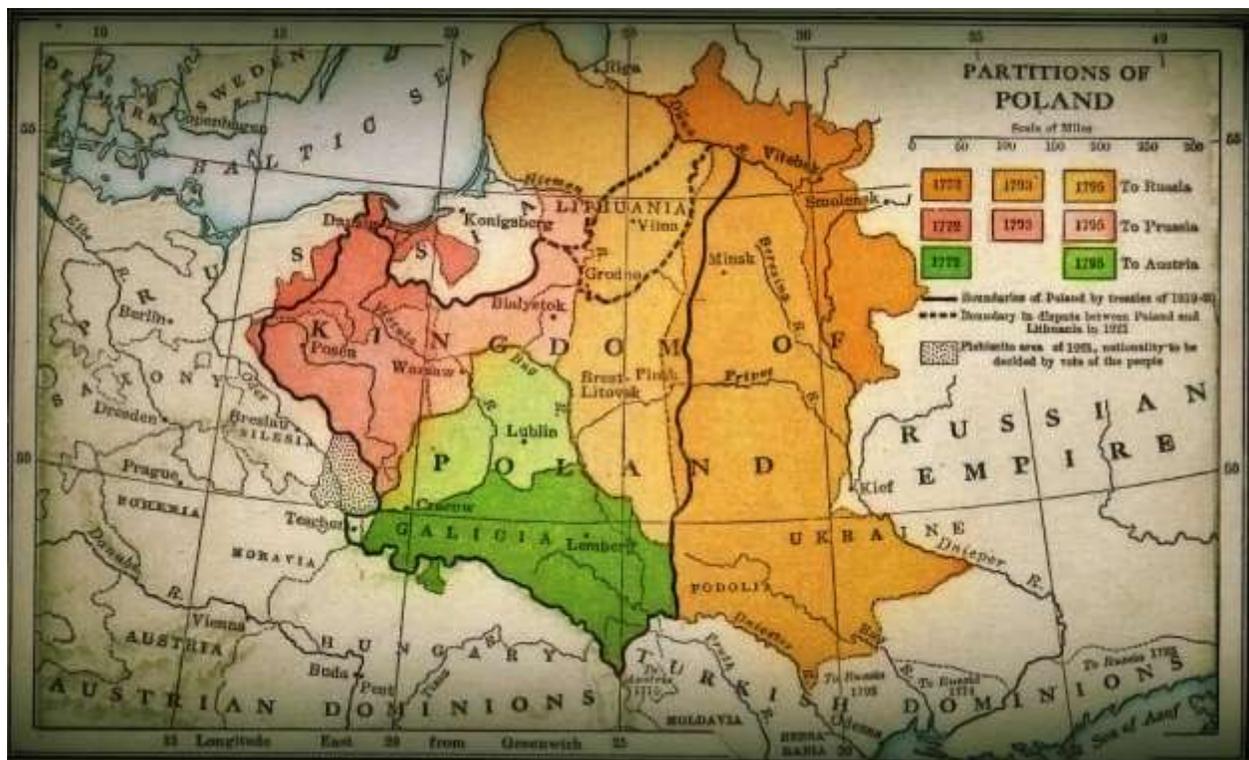
Looking at them I hope that for Poland there's still a bright light at the end of the road.

Confusion in the courtroom doesn't fade away. The whole incident is being witnessed by Catherine the Great, who by looking down on them from a massive painting is making the situation all the more affecting.

What a scene, quite a stir, bet the Europe will be astounded by the news it's about to hear.

PARTITIONS OF POLAND

Unfair Partition of Poland



Jean Michel Moreau Le Jeune was a Parisian painter and a draftsman who made a sketch called “The Troelfth Cake”. It presents the rulers of three countries that participated in the partition tearing the maps of the Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth apart. This event symbolizes the Troelfth cake. The ruler of Prussia, Fredrick II was known for his ironical attitude to life. He is said to compare the First Partition of Poland to the tradition of eating a special cake –Troelfth cake at Epiphany. During the feast, the cake is divided into as many shares as there are guests, plus one. This one left piece of the cake is for a wanderer. There is a bean inside the cake. A person who finds a bean in a piece of cake, will be lucky next year. Fredrick II received congratulations for this achievement from Voltaire. He said that indeed, it was the Troelfth cake and the bean had been divided into three parts.



“The Troelfth Cake” Jean-Michel Moreau




POLISH FASHION

Woman

In the 18c. women's fashion was influenced by French fashion. Dresses were very expensive, made of expensive materials and beautifully decorated.

A dress consisted of:

- corset,
- long, white gown had the lingerie function.




3 basic forms of outfit :

- 1 piece dress,
- 2 piece combination consisted of skirt was worn

At home ladies wore light dresses.

Materials used for dresses were: silks and cotton.

Pearls bracelets were popular, also ivory fans. Shoes were court shoes on high heel, with long narrow nose. The most fashionable haircuts were smoothly combed and slightly powdered. Grease was also used. Later wigs became fashionable. Hats were decorated with feathers, flowers and materials. Makeup was essential: women put it on faces, necks and backs. Country women wore canvas or woolen skirt and blouse, in winter sheep hides.

Man

French influence dominated. A stylish men wore: a vest, tight trousers, made of thick materials. For short trousers they used thin stockings. Less formal man's outfit was based on English fashion, it was modest and casual. At home men wore short trousers, vests and sleeping gown.

Children On the beginning of the 18thth children's needs were neglected. Their outfit were the precise, miniature copies of adult clothes.

FASHION IN POLAND

Young women want to follow the French fashion. The ideal beauty has blue eyes and fair hair. Dresses are expensive. They are made of gauze, tulle and muslin with a lot of ornaments. The girdle (a piece of very tight underwear that women wear to make them look thinner) is very important. Each woman must wear it if she wants to look attractive. The ideal woman is delicate, nice, fragile and full of grace. Male fashion is based on short trousers, jerkin (a short jacket without sleeves) and a dressing-gown. They are made of the same fabric. The hat is triangular in shape and decorated with feathers. The small potable watch hanging on the chain and decorated with a snuffbox as well as leather gloves are a must. They are very fashionable and they should be perfectly matched. As you can imagine, you can't feel free if you want to follow fashion. The clothes aren't comfortable. You can wear them if you are rich or if you belong to a noble family.



Louis Leopold Boilly *L'invitation en retour*. An example of bourgeois fashion in 1789

Polak Szymon, Sandra Smoleń, Rafał Tabor, Adrian Strugała, I T a





BLACK MANIFESTATION in Warsaw.

„Black Manifestation” will take place on the 2nd of December in Warsaw.

The manifestation is organized by Jan Dekert and Hugon Kołłątaj.

The Event is intended to support the four-year parliament which is fighting for the public rights as well as the right to acquire an own land.

The manifestation will begin with a march along streets of the capital city and it will stop near the Royal castle.

If you want to take part in the event you should wear black clothes.

25th of December 1789

The Ogiński Canal

the most modern waterway is opened!

The Ogiński Canal has just been built. Its construction started in 1765 (18 years ago). It is one of the biggest successes of the Polish technology. A great Lithuanian hetman is the initiator of the construction. His name is Casimir Ogiński. He is one of the most educated magnates. His goal is economic and cultural revival of one of the eastern regions of Poland: Polesie. The canal connects two rivers: Niemen and Dniepr as well as two seas: the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea. The canal is 46 km long, twelve to eighteen meters wide and it has side canals of 80 meters. Its depth is up to 1,5 meter. The rivers: Jasiolda, Prypec and Szczara serve to create easy communication system in the eastern parts of Poland. Many water gates level water on this canal. The main administration office in the city of Telechany is owned by the prince Ogiński. A seaport and a shipyard are built in Telechany to developpe this city. Pińsk is the biggest river port on this modern waterway. Come and start your voyage in Pińsk, it is possible now!



The Ogiński Canal

Szymon Polak, Albert Wieczerzak.
