

Busy year 2012

It's my giddy fault to miss the deadline for Dec 2012 TTP 69. Perhaps it was a sudden relaxation after pressing rigors of getting things done. Polish Brotherhood has managed to achieve important deeds within in a quite busy year. Never mind, now I have an opportunity to report on almost entire year.

Władysław **Wagner's Year 2012** – firstly declared and then led throughout by Brothers - started by crowded and successful happening in January on British Virgin Islands. A suitable memorial plaque was unveiled there. That was reported already in March TTP 66 - but that was only the beginning...

For next tasks waiting inside Poland Majordomo Andrzej Radomiński (86) came forward as a leader, taking over as a '*spiritus movens*' from Brother Andrzej Piotrowski (69), who lives abroad.

And the next event of The Anniversary Year marked the moment of start and setting sails for first Polish circumnavigation of the world. On 8th July the second plaque was unveiled at the Yacht Basin of Gdynia harbour. It was happening in the very same place but exactly 80 years later (8.07.1932/2012). Beside that, on the Sea Scouts' Training Centre building, a big mural was presented. It was painted by Olimpia Dębska – the granddaughter of Wladek's older brother Jan. The Scout Centre's yacht, named **ZJAWA IV** was sent for long Baltic and North Sea cruise. Many scout crew changes later she was due to reach Great Yarmouth in Great Britain. Her name is a poignant continuation of previous three Wagner's yachts called Zjawa, Zjawa II and Zjawa III.

Few moments before unberthing, onboard there was a 2012 ceremony of handing over The Glory of the Seas Award, to one of the oldest Polish Brothers – Capt. Andrzej Kaszyński (88). He is a surviving witness of those old times, he was starting his yachting adventures just then –while exciting news from Wagner's ongoing voyage were a hot topic among yachtsmen.

The next event was again abroad - on 5th September. The special purpose of ZJAWA IV arrival was loudly announced by the Great Yarmouth Town Crier. That was the spot where Wagner received news about start of WW II and quite obvious order from the Polish Consul - to abandon trip. Dreams about triumphal return to home harbour, cherished during seven years of long and arduous navigation, perished instantly and painfully. Such crowning of efforts never ever comes for Wladek. Only now, the missing leg of home-run was going to be completed by ZJAWA IV, serving as a symbolic stand-in on behalf of Wagner and ZJAWA III. Better 73 years late than never...

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-W73_Z7Iis

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-19440084>)

Scouts and Zjawa IV, skippered by one of the youngest Polish ocean captains Piotr Cichy, returned to a big welcome in Gdynia on 15th September. Then and there a third memorial plaque was embedded in the Yacht Basin's breakwater inner wall, inaugurating an "Alley of Polish Yachting". It was on that date, twenty years earlier, when Wagner died abroad and never having seen Poland again... 100th anniversary of Wagners birth, coming only two days later, concluded our common efforts to remind the Big Sailor, whose deeds were largely forgotten in the wake of stormy 20th century history of Poland. We, at the Hermandad de la Costa, are proud to hand him back a historical justice.

Gdańsk International Zafarrancho, organized by CN Jerzy Demetraki-Paleolog (78) himself, was initially conceived as Polish-American, but matured into a full blown international meeting attended also by Freres from England, France and Germany. Three days between 19 and 21 October allowed us to meet in different places and show-off some local attractions of which the old ZEJMAN club proved to be the most impressive

and interesting for maritime minded crowd. ZEJMAN, invented, nurtured and managed for many years already by Brother Andrzej Dębiec (116), certainly is not modern, elegant and very civilized, but nevertheless is unique and already quite famous among the Gdańsk' salty visitors. It is in contrast to the prestigious Hotel Gdańsk, next to Gdańsk Marina, where we met for the main and official Zaf gathering. There, during general fraternizing, announcements, artistic appearances and orzas, we even did manage to sworn-in some new Polish Brothers. The newest one bears number 131.

Judging now from grapevine and hindsight the Zaf was a success. French Brothers took opportunity to remind everybody about World Zaf in 2014 they organize. Germans hijacked many Brothers for Hamburg Table Inauguration event on the following weekend, Poles announced first hint about 3rd Lake Zafarrancho 2013 at Mazurian Lake District. The appetite for international travels, banqueting and hearty backslapping seems to be growing among Brothers... However, let us not be forgetting about other activities and aims envisaged by founding fathers for our Hermandad.

The last event of the year 2012 engaging Polish Bractwo Wybrzeża was **the Yacht Film** presentation in Warsaw. During two days (24-25 November) a big variety of topical movies was shown. It was a continuation of last year similar event. It is surprising how many truly valuable and interesting productions can be found in Poland and in the wide world – providing you are persistent and search long enough. We managed to unearth and show even some sequences of original amateur movie done during voyage by Wagner himself... Year by year the program presents new positions, year by year the public comes, fill-up a 500 seat auditorium, enjoys the experience and asks for more. Program positions from abroad were now e.g.: “Between Home”, “Berserk in the Antarctic”, “The Damien’s Voyage”, “Jessica Watson”... Check them in the internet. They are definitely worth watching.

We know already that on 2nd March 2013 in Gdańsk two members of family shall be receiving, on behalf of Wladek, awarded posthumously **CONRAD’S AWARD** and statuette – for outstanding sailing personality. That also is going to happen on our Brotherhood nomination... The recipients will be: mentioned already Olimpia Dębska and her grandmother Mrs. Irena Wagner. By the way, the other recipient shall be this year our late Brother Andrzej Straburzyński (94), much appreciated skipper of Canadian STV CONCORDIA for many years.

I present above as my excuse for taking eyes ‘off the ball’ and regrettable delay for TTP...

ORZA!

Jerzy Knabe (2)

Vigia Internacional - Polonia