

Polish American Historical Association Newsletter

Volume 66 Number 2 October 2009



The Polish American Historical Association Board met in New York in June 2009. (Photo by Jim Pula)

Remember that you can always renew your membership online!

New Members Needed!

PAHA needs new members and we need your help! If you know anyone who might be interested in joining our wonderful organization, please give us their names and addresses! You can mail your information to Pien Versteegh at:

a.p.versteegh@uvt.nl

Thank you!

Editor's Note:

Greetings from Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina! You may have noticed the different look to this edition of the *PAHA Newsletter*. Just as I normally start to work on the newsletter, I received an exciting offer to teach at the American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina. While I would normally spend September putting the edition together, I instead focused on making a move to Tuzla. Complicating matters is that I no longer have access to the software that I used to produce the newsletter. I do not see myself as leaving PAHA or America, but as joining the international community of scholars studying America's Polonia. If you have any questions or comments, please email me at **skilleahy@gmail.com**. You can always keep up with PAHA at **www.polishamericanstudies.org**.

Stephen M. Leahy, Editor, PAHA Newsletter

Stephen M. Lerly

PAHA Encyclopedia Project

We are happy to report that the project to create a one-volume encyclopedia focusing on the history and culture of American Polonia is nearing completion. As of October 1, a total of 908 approved entries have been completed by more than 120 authors amounting to over 550,000 words. We estimate that the final word count will exceed 600,000. Various authors are currently in the process of completing the remaining entries, and we are in the process of collecting illustrations for use in the completed volume. We expect that the completed encyclopedia will be available from McFarland Publications toward the end of next year.

With the latter, PAHA wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the cooperation of the archives of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the archives of Central Connecticut State University, the Józef Piłsudski Institute, the Polish Museum of America, and the Orchard Lake Schools, all of which have generously permitted access to their collections.

We expect that the completed encyclopedia will be available from the publisher, McFarland Publications, toward the end of next year. When it is available, further information will appear in the *PAHA Newsletter* and on the PAHA web site at http://www.polishamericanstudies.org. Naturally, a project of this magnitude requires significant funding. PAHA would like to extend its sincere appreciation to all of the following individuals and institutions who contributed generously toward preserving our heritage for future generations.

James S. Pula

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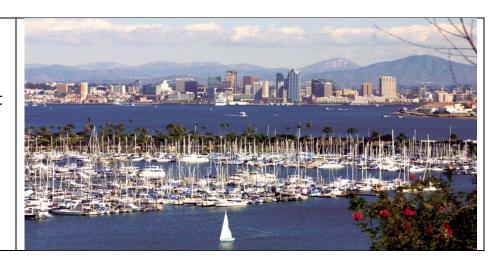
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The Polish American Historical Association Thanks You!

www.polishamericanstudies.org

PAHA 2010 Annual Meeting Program

San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina 333 W. Harbor Dr. San Diego, CA 92101



Program of Events:

Annual Board Meeting

Friday, January 8, 2010: 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Location: Marriott, Executive Conference Room

Session 1: Twentieth Century Polonia

Friday, January 8, 2010: 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Location: Marriott, Del Mar Room

Chair: Ann Hetzel Gunkel, Columbia College Chicago

"Learning to Move Up: Educating Poles in the United States, 1900–30" $\,$

Pien Versteegh, Tilburg University

"Lajkonik of Tucson - A Piece of True Poland: Constructing Polish-American Identities in an Ethnically Heterogeneous Society"

Monika Glowacka-Musial, Temple University

"Z Polski do Anglii: The Polish Conservation Corps and the Making of Polish Britons"

Brian McCook, Leeds Metropolitan University

"An Archangel at the Piano: The Images of Paderewski and His American Audience" Maja Trochimczyk, independent scholar





Session 2: Scholarly Publishing and e-Journals

Saturday, January 9, 2010: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Location: Marriott, Del Mar Room

Chair: Thomas Duszak, State Library of Pennsylvania

"Scholarly Publishing and e-Journals: Quo Vadis—A Primer on the e-Journal Revolution in Academe" Tony Harvell, University of California at San Diego Libraries

Session 3: Rome's Most Faithful Daughter: Book Session on Recent Publications in Polish and Polish American Studies

Saturday, January 9, 2010: 11:30 AM-1:30 PM

Location: Marriott, Del Mar Room

Chair: Winson W. Chu, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"Rome's Most Faithful Daughter: The Catholic Church and Independent Poland, 1914–39 (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2009)."

Neal Pease, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Comment: Brian McCook, Leeds Metropolitan University

Session 4: The Immigrant Experience in Poetry

Saturday, January 9, 2010: 2:30 PM-4:30 PM

Location: Marriott, Del Mar Room

Chair: Maja Trochimczyk, independent scholar

Speaker(s):

Linda Nemec Foster, independent scholar Ioanna Warwick, independent scholar Konrad Tademar, independent scholar Maja Trochimczyk, independent scholar Lillian Vallee, Modesto Junior College

Annual Awards Dinner

Indigo Grill, 1536 India Street, San Diego Saturday, January 9, 2010: 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

Among the awards to be presented:

Mieczyslaw Haiman Award:
Oskar Halecki Prize:
Skalny Civic Achievement Award:

Conference Registration Form:



Come and see the moon over the San Diego skyline!

(Ted Ross photograph released to the public domain)

YES, I will be attending the 2010 Polish American Historical Association Meeting in sunny San Diego!



Costs:	
\$20 – Conference Attendance Fee	
\$75 – PAHA Awards Banquet	
(Banquet Registration Required by December 1, 2009)	
Would you also like to pay your 2009 PAHA Dues?	
(\$40 Individual; \$20 Senior/Student)	
Donation	
(Any amount would be appreciated)	
Total	

Advance Registration: For immediate registration by Credit Card via Paypal or Google Checkout, please log-on to: http://polishamericanstudies.org/registration.html

--or--

Send this form and a personal check to:
PAHA, Attention: Magda Jacques
Polish American Historical Association
Central Connecticut State University
1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050





Personalia and Other Information

T. Lindsay Baker participated in the 45th anniversary celebration of the National Museum of Agriculture and Food Industry in Szreniawa near Poznań, Poland. The events also included a conference on agricultural museums around the globe.

Jadwiga Bogucka died at age 93 in Yardley, Pennsylvania. Bogucka avidly participated in the Polish Intercollegiate Club and the Associated Polish Home in Philadelphia. She also sang with the Paderewski Choral Society and organized a lecture series for the Polish People's University in Philadelphia. She also served on the Kosciuszko Foundation Board. Bogucka often visited Poland, becoming fluent in the Polish language. Born in Philadelphia, Boucka earned degrees from Drexel University. She also taught home economics at Gregorian Court College.

Don Binkowski is pleased to announce that the Don Binkowski Papers are open for research at the Walter Reuther Library at Wayne State University Library. The collection features correspondence and campaign materials for Binkowski's work with the Michigan Constitutional Convention, and as a city council member for the city of Warren, and his judicial papers. It also includes his work with Polish American organizations and Democratic Party politics.

John M. Grondelski received a U.S. State Department "Meritorious Honor Award" from U.S. Ambassador Donald Beyer at the U.S. Embassy in Bern, Switzerland, where he is Deputy Chief of Consular Services. The award was conferred for Grondelski's eliminating the visa appointment backlog at post, even as the Embassy's visa workload grew more than 17% last fiscal year. Grondelski also delivered a paper, "Reflections on the Future of Polonian Parishes in the United States" at the quinquennial congress of the *Polskie Towarzysztwo Historyczne* at the University of Warmia and Masuria in Olsztyn, Poland, September 16, 2009.

John Guzlowski received the Cultural Achievement Award from the American Council for Polish Culture. He was also the featured speaker at "It All Began in Poland," the 70th Anniversary Commemoration of the Invasion of Poland. His poem "Polack Joe's Story" has just been published in the Connecticut River Review. Finally, this year is the 10th anniversary of the publication of Language of Mules, his first book of poems about his parents and their experiences in World War II. He blogs about them and the experiences of other Poles who were caught up in the chaos of World War II at http://lightning-and-ashes.blogspot.com/

Don Pienkos published *Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow: The Story of the Polish National Alliance.* It appeared in November 2008. The book can be purchased from the Polish National Alliance. Contact Frank J. Spula via email at **frank.spula@pna-znp.org** or call 800-621-3723.

James S. Pula was named Contributing Editor of the forthcoming Multicultural America: The Hispanic Americans; published "Polish Workers and Strikes, 1900-1937," in The Encyclopedia of Strikes in American History; was an invited speaker on "Kosciuszko's Contribution to Nathaniel Greene's Campaigns in the Carolinas" at the Kosciuszko commemoration at the U.S. Military Academy; and delivered a paper on "Kosciuszko's Role in the Southern Campaign" at the annual conference of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences.



Personalia Continued

Don Samull died recently. Samull lived most of his life in the Detroit area, but he traveled the world to study Polish sites on seven continents. He had a passion for learning about Poland and Polonia. He readily shared his numerous experiences with his students and with the community. Samull also authored guidebooks to Polish American sites in America in addition to covering Polish American events for newspapers. He produced a nationally known Polish American calendar. A longtime member of the Polish American Historical Association, Samull won the Civic Achievement Award. He also served on the boards of the West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society and the Polish Geneological Society of Michigan.

Claude Wiatrowski has published a color guidebook to Colorado historic sites. Entitled Historic Colorado. It features maps and rare historic images. He also has published Railroads of Colorado and Railroads Across North America. These books can be purchased on amazon.com. Wiatrowski also performs in bands in the Pikes Peak region.

lave Zake published Anti-Communist Minorities: Political Activism of Ethnic Refugees with Palgrave-Macmillan. The book looks at ethnic anti-Communism during the Cold War, especially Polish American groups. For more information, please see http://www.palgrave-usa.com//catalog/product.aspx?isbn=0230606814

"Letter to Serafin" can be found in John Minczeski's recent book *A Letter to Serafin* (University of Akron Press, 2009).

John Guzlowski selects the poem for this feature.

Poetry Corner:

"A Letter to Serafin" by John Minczeski

Serafin, orphaned angel, all that's left is a few pigs, some rutabagas, and winter wheat. Your great-grandchildren,

heirs to your legacy of dirt, cultivate dialects like snow. I am speaking from a suburb of St. Paul. It is October. I am not raking

or composting. Nothing remains the same—a galvanized roof shines on top of your house; nobody has time for thatching anymore—yet everything is the same.

The family, having gathered beets, came from hunting mushrooms to set out sausage and relishes.

What was I doing there, they asked, how old was I? More tea? Vodka? And everything made by hand—you'd feel at home.

They laid out inventories from the war—
a hand blown off by a land mine in the field,
a father who walked home from Germany
more bone than flesh.
Bankruptcies keep filtering down—
stifled inheritances,
a grimace mistaken for a smile.

The animals remain—pigs, a cow staked out in a field to graze—descended from those you fed, who adored you, whoever you were, Serafin.

Anna R. Skalny, 1916-2009



Skalny Rochester, New York died on April 23, 2009 at the age of 92 years. She was a long-time supporter of programs that have enriched the preservation and promotion of Polish heritage. Although Anna never married, she was devoted to her family and to many she will be remembered as "...Our Auntv Mame...always filled with surprises, up and away on the drop of a coin, but especially, always a friend and always there for you."

She graduated from the University of Rochester with a B.A. degree in Business Administration. Her interests were many and varied including literature, art, music and travel. Anna joined the Women's Army Corps (WACS) and served in England and North Africa during World War II. She was a life-long member of St. Casimir's Polish National Catholic Church.

Anna was one of the four original directors and founders of the Louis Skalny Foundation. This organization, over the years, has contributed greatly to Polish and community programs. She helped develop a Polish presence in the area through the Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies at the University of Rochester. Anna also supported of the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester. She worked with the Skalny Foundation directors and American Council for Polish Culture to establish the national Louis and Nellie Skalny Scholarships. Finally, Anna supported the Polish American Historical Association in the publication of their *Polish American Studies Journal*. Anna was a recipient of the distinguished Cavalier Cross of Merit from the Republic of Poland, the Distinguished Service Award from the Polish American Historical Association, and awards from the University of Rochester and the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. Ms. Skalny is predeceased by her mother and father, Nellie and Louis Skalny, and her brothers John T., Joseph, Edward and Bernard Skalny.

Written by Frederic Skalny

www.polishamericanstudies.org

POLISH INSTITUTE'S 67TH ANNUAL MEETING FOCUSES ON 1989; THE YEAR POLAND CHANGED THE WORLD

The 67th Annual Meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA) was held on June 13-14, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Jersey City/ On overlooking the New York Harbor. According to the chair of the Annual meeting, Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, over 200 persons attended the two day multidisciplinary conference on Polish and Polish American studies. Most were scholars and scientists from twenty states and five foreign countries which included Poland, Canada, United Kingdom, Netherlands, and Israel. Representative of the following organizations participated in the conference:



Ann Hetzel Gunkel presents at the PIASA Meeting in Jersey City, New Jersey (Pula Photo)

Polish Cultural Foundation of Clark, New Jersey, Polish American Historical Association, Polonia Technica, Pilsudski Institute of America, The Kosciuszko Foundation, Orchard Lake Schools of Michigan, American Council of Polish Culture and the Polish University Club of New Jersey.

The conference opened with plenary session on "1989 Annus Mirabilis: Poland's Road to Independence" moderated by Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, President of PIASA. Panelists included Dr. Jan Kubik, Rutgers University, Dr. Z. Anthony Kruszewski, University of Texas at El Paso, Dr. Jakub Grygiel, Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Neal Pease, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Dr. Susanne S. Lotarski, U.S. Department of Commerce. Other sessions included, "Poland After 20 years of Transition", "Cold War and Its Aftermath in Poland and Eastern Europe", "Polish Children in Exile", "Prominent Poles in the History of Science", "Polish Music and Cinema", ""Kazimierz Wierzynski: On the 40th Anniversary of his Death," and "World War II: Its Impact on Poland." The conference concluded with the monodrama "Helena, the Queen of Emigrants" a production of the Polish Theatre Institute of United States featuring Nina Polan as Helena Modjeska.

The main banquet address was delivered by His Excellency John R. Davis, U.S. Ambassador to Poland in the 1980's. He spoke on "1989, the Year that Poland Changed the World" based on his personal experiences as an active participant in making history. The Honorable Krzysztof Kasprzyk, Consul General of the Republic of Poland, in New York City, talked about his role during the dramatic events of 1989.

The chair of the 67th Annual Meeting was Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, President and Executive Director of PIASA while his Deputy Executive Director Janina Kedron, was the Coordinator. The Annual Meeting will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

2009 PAHA Mid-Year Board Meeting Report

It was inspiring to hold our mid-year meeting in Jersey City, NJ within a short walk of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, the gateway through which many of our Polish ancestors first came to America with the dream of building a better life while continuing to support the struggle for freedom in the homeland. At the same time, there were more somber reminders of the human costs of freedom's struggle. Across the Hudson was Ground Zero, while directly outside the hotel where we held our meeting stood the monument to the victims of Katyn and Soviet oppression during World War II. The confluence in one place of visible reminders of the triumphs and tragedies in Polish and American history as well as the clear, continuing linkages between the two was quite moving.

PAHA had a strong presence at the PIASA Annual Meeting (June 13-14, 2009) and the conference panels we co-sponsored with PIASA were popular and well-attended. On the panel that I chaired, there were wonderful presentations on relations between Poles and other ethnicities, the assimilation of Poles in American life through sport, and the development of a "Polish American" literary tradition. Other scholarly panels examined the Orchard Lake Schools, Erazm Jerzmanowski, New York's St. Stanislaus Church, and Polish life in the North Side of Chicago. The papers given highlight the richness of *Polonia* history and the need for more research into Polish-American history and culture.

The mid-year board meeting took place on Sunday, June 14 and board members in attendance included: President Brian McCook, First Vice President Neal Pease, Treasurer and *Polish American Studies* Editor James S. Pula, Executive Director Pien Versteegh, and Board members Anna D. Jaroszynska-Kirchmann, M. B. Biskupski, Anne Gurnack, Ann Gunkel and Tom Duszak.

As President, I was pleased to be able to report on the successful PAHA conference in New York where we had well-attended sessions and a wonderful awards reception ceremony at the Polish Consulate. Particular recognition should be given to Ann Gunkel for her role organizing such a great conference. In February 2009, the PAHA board passed a motion (by e-mail vote) to provide additional financial support to Ohio University Press' Polish American Studies Series through the transfer of existing Kulczycki Award funds. This change does mean that the Kulczycki Award, given in recognition of exceptional Ph.D. dissertations on Polish-American History, will be suspended until approximately 2012/13.

In April 2009, a ballot was sent to members regarding an amendment to the PAHA constitution to facilitate the timely payment of costs associated with the organization's operation as well as the election of Dr. Neal Pease as First Vice President. Both the amendment and the election of Neal as First VP passed overwhelmingly. Between April and June, John Guzlowski and I worked to update the PAHA website. John's efforts in this regard were exceptionally noteworthy and it is now possible on the website for members to pay their annual dues or register for conferences through PayPal (in addition to Google Checkout).

During the meeting, Jim Pula reported as Chair of the Publications Committee on our recent activities. *Polish American Studies* received excellent contributions for this year (as I think you will agree from the journal issues you received). All of the back issues of *PAS*, except for the most recent two years, can now also be accessed electronically through J-STOR, the premier academic journal database. To assure and enhance the accessibility of *PAS* to a global audience, a pre-meeting was held on Saturday, June 13 attended by Jim Pula, Anna Jaroszynska-Kirchmann, M.B. Biskupski, Neal Pease, Tom Duszak, and myself to coordinate our forward thinking about our e-access efforts. From this meeting, it was decided that a

special committee led by Tom Duszak will monitor issues related to *PAS* e-access over the next year. Jim also reported to the board on the sad passing of Anna Skalny (please see her obituary in this Newsletter). In recognition of the Skalny family and the support provided by the Louis and Nellie Skalny Foundation to PAHA over the years, a motion was approved by the board to officially rename the Civic Achievement Award as the Skalny Civic Achievement Award.

The Polish-American Studies series published by Ohio University Press is going strong. Nine books have been published so far thanks to PAHA support, two more books will appear next year, and other manuscripts are being considered. In ensuring the continued success of this series, special recognition must be given to the generosity of the Stanley and Sophie Kulczycki Foundation.

The number of article entries to the PAHA-sponsored Polish-American Encyclopedia Project currently stands at around 900 and I do wish to thank all who have financially supported this endeavor so far. While the encyclopedia is nearing completion, we still do need donations to aid with publication costs. If you are able and have not yet donated, please try to do so soon. Any amount is welcome and your participation in this effort is important. Donations can be made through our office in New Britain and sent to: "PAHA Encyclopedia Project," Polish American Historical Association, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT, 06050.

As Treasurer, Jim reported on the sound financial health of our organization. As of April 30, 2009 revenues exceeded expenses by \$3,961 and the projected budget for 2010 is balanced. Though our investment portfolio suffered from the downturn in the global economy in the autumn of 2008, PAHA's conservative investment strategy helped to minimize our market exposure during the worst of the crisis and we have regained lost assets from the previous year. As an organization, PAHA is financially sound.

Pien Versteegh, our Executive Director, reported on her ongoing efforts to expand knowledge about PAHA and our membership rolls. In particular Pien is focused on reinforcing ties with Polonia organizations while promoting ties to institutions and scholars in Poland. I would like to ask all of you to help Pien in her efforts by being PAHA ambassadors. In particular, please do tell your friends and colleagues about our organization and the important work that we do. You can direct them to our website (www.polishamericanstudies.org) or write to let us know about those who might be interested in membership.

A report from Second Vice President and Awards Committee Chairman Stephen Leahy was read noting that the Committee (comprised of Leahy, Don Pienkos and William Galush) was considering worthy nominees for the Annual Awards. Ann Gunkel reported on ongoing planning for the Annual Meeting for San Diego in January 2010. The *PAHA Newsletter* contains a copy of the 2010 meeting program.

Finally, at the mid-year meeting a resolution was passed regarding the need for members behind in their dues to renew their membership or otherwise no longer be eligible to receive mailings of the *PAS* or the Newsletter. Membership support is vital to our ability to hold high quality conferences, produce the *PAS* journal, and engage in other scholarly activities designed to expand the public's knowledge about Polish American History and Culture. As part of this *Newsletter* mailing, you will be receiving a past due notice if you happen to be behind in your dues. I would kindly ask you to renew your PAHA membership as soon as possible. Your support matters!

Brian McCook PAHA President

To keep up with virtual Polonia

and

the activities of other Polish American organizations,

log on to

www.polishamericanstudies.org.

Now Available

Polish Political Émigrés in the United States of America, 1831-1864 by Florian Stasik, translated by Eugene Podraza, edited with an introduction by James S. Pula. Boulder: Easter European Monographs, 2002.

Distributed by Columbia University Press.

To order, send a check or money order for \$20, payable to the Polish American Historical Association at Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT 06050

The Polish Review

The Polish Review is interested in printing topical issues or sections of issues. Among topics suggested are:

Polish film (including current film, women in Polish film, Polish literature in film, Polish war film, etc.)

Polish folklore (myths, customs, (new folklore," etc.)

American views of Poland (in literature, the press, textbooks, etc.)

Today's ethnic groups in Poland (survey or on individual groups)

Contemporary arts in Poland

Contemporary Polish music

Articles must be of scholarly quality and submitted in packages (three or more articles per package suggested) to:

Editor, *The Polish Review*, 208 E. 30th St., New York, NY 10016

The Sarmatian Review

An academic tri-quarterly whose goal is to help develop a scholarly discourse on Poland and non-Germanic Central Europe. The journal specializes in publishing documentary materials in English translation. Its electronic version, Sarmatian Review Online, is distributed by Rice University. (www.ruf.rice.edu/-sarmatia). Sarmatian Review is indexed in the American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies, in PAIS International Database and in the Central and Eastern European Online Library. (www.ceeol.com) where it is available in .pdf format. Our contents are a creative mix of annotated data, scholarly articles, literary texts and more. Libraries from Harvard to Stanford subscribe to it.

Subscription Rates in 2008:

Individuals \$21.00 Libraries \$28.00

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Individuals \$28.00 Libraries \$35.00

Subscription checks, submissions and correspondence should be sent to:

The Sarmatian Review
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Houston, Texas 77279-9119

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The PAHA Newsletter is published semiannually by the Polish American Historical Association and is distributed to its members. Individual memberships are available at \$40 per year, or institutional memberships at \$98 per year by sending a check made payable to the Polish American Historical Association at the New Britain address.

Stephen M. Leahy, Editor,

PAHA Newsletter

Assistant Editor John Guzlowski

Polish American Historical Association Central Connecticut State University 1615 Stanley St. New Britain, CT 06050 Email: skilleahy@gmail.com.

Polish American Journal

Special for new subscribers who are members of PAHA! In October 1911, a Polish language newspaper entitled Zorza made its debut in Pittston, Pennsylvania. Today it is the Polish American Journal, the nation's largest independent English language monthly newspaper. A monthly digest of Polish American life in the United States, each issue of the Polish American Journal provides hundreds of news items and in-depth and provocative features by Polonia's finest academicians and historians. Order today at \$20.00 for one year, \$37.00 for two years, or \$51.00 for three from the Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 328, Boston, NY 14024-0328, or call 1 (800) 422-1275.

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