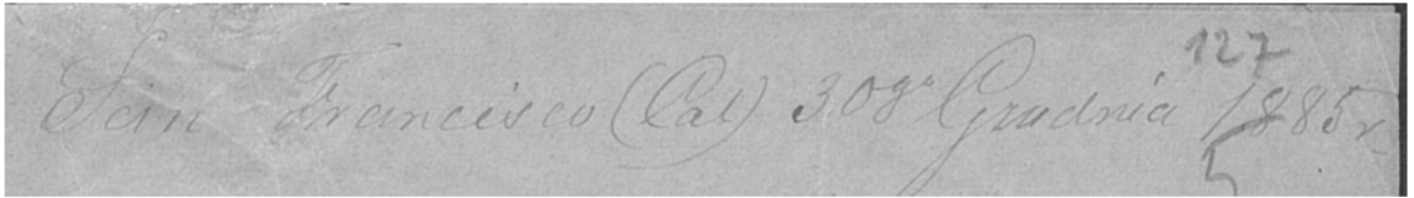


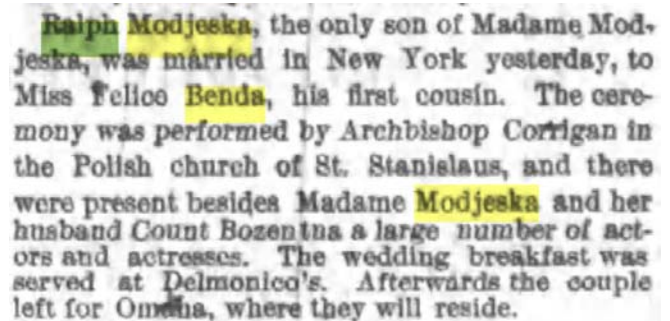
ALEKSANDER BEDNAWSKI¹ TO HELENA AND KAROL CHŁAPOWSKI²



San Francisco (California) 30 December 1885

Dear and Respected Mr. and Mrs. Karol Chłapowski,

It was with great pleasure today that I picked up from the agency of Dr. Pawlicki³ your lithographed card, informing me "that the wedding of their son and stepson, P[an]⁴ Rudolf Modrzejewski, with Miss Felicja Benda will take place on the 28th of December of this year (it's already happened) in N[ew] York,"⁵ and which the local daily papers had announced to us earlier. Three occasions are very important in human life, namely: Births, Weddings and the end of our existence on this Earth, among which the second of these is undoubtedly the most important. It is therefore a pleasure for me to congratulate You with all my heart, that You have lived to see such a happy occurrence, which brings great comfort to parental hearts. Whereas, regarding the Young Couple, not only do I congratulate them, but from my status as a sort of Patriarch in relation to the younger generation (I am, after all, 73 years of age) I bless them, I bless, and at the same time I send on their behalf my humble pleadings to the Most High, that He may graciously pour down on them His blessings for a great many years!



Albany (NY) *Morning Express*, 29 December 1885

May they also live to see their Golden Anniversary in the best of health and happiness, loving each other mutually until the end ... I must here confess [illegible] that this news caused a very lovely impression... in Your favor, not only on myself but on everyone ...

Wishing You on this occasion, my Dear Sir and Madam, all manner of prosperity in the New Year, I remain with deep respect and deference,

¹ See: <http://www.polishclubsf.org/Bednawski%20addresses.pdf>;

² See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helena_Modjeska;

³ See: <http://www.polishclubsf.org/Pawlicki.pdf>;

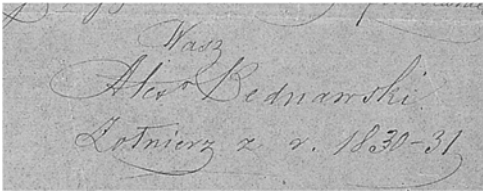
⁴ *Pan* and *Pani*, literally "Lord" and "Lady," were Polish titles of nobility; these terms are the modern equivalents of Mr. and Ms. (Miss or Mrs.)

⁵ The wedding of R. Modjeski and F. Benda took place at St. Stanislaus Church in New York on the 28th of December, 1885; for a more complete description of the wedding, see: *The New York Herald*, 29 December 1885

Your Aleks[ander] Bednawski
Soldier in the years 1830-31⁶

Bednawski Alexander, surveyor, r. 16 Clinton Park

From: The 1885 San Francisco City directory



P.S. We have here nothing further to tell which could interest You – from the time of Your last departure, nothing has changed, nary a whit – everything happens in accord with its long accustomed course, excepting that we here are presently experiencing exceptionally hard times, which nearly everyone is suffering under.⁷ Among Polonia,⁸ all are in good health and getting by as always. Regarding myself, I can call myself happy that some time ago already I got rid of the crutches, and now I get about well enough with a cane.

You certainly must be aware that Hanusia⁹ has been married for a year already and not long ago gave birth to a little son.

700	90	103	Pawlicki kedis	W M	47			1		Physician
			— Ellen	W F	40	Wife		1		Keeping House
			— Cozman	W M	7	Son	1			At School
			— Pades	W M	6	Son	1			At School
			Kraszkiewicz	W F	18	Servant	1			Servant
			Durkin Edw'd	W M	45	Boarder	1			Real Estate

We had a comical wedding here recently – a beautiful Polish woman with a Japanese man, of which I send a rather accurate description, contained in a clipping from *The Examiner*,¹⁰ excepting that her name was not "Biloraska" but "Białorzewska" [illegible] she was to remain there [illegible].

SOURCE:

Letter number 27 (Modrzejewska correspondence), generously provided by **Professors Emil Orzechowski** and **Alicja Kędziora**, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland.

Translated from a Polish transcription (A. Kędziora) by **Bob Lamming**, with **Elżbieta Kieszczyńska** (Clifton, New Jersey), and edited by **Maureen Mroczek Morris** (San Francisco) with **Roman Włodek** (Kraków) and **Lynn Ludlow** (San Francisco).

⁶ See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/November_Uprising;

⁷ Perhaps a reference to the economic depression; see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Depression_of_1882%E2%80%939385; or perhaps referring to the expulsion of the Poles by the Austrians; see: <http://www.polishclubsf.org/Expulsion%20of%20Poles,%20by%20Bednawski%201885.pdf>;

⁸ People of Polish descent living outside Poland

⁹ The former maid of Helena Modjeska, Anusia Kraszkiewicz, who arrived in the USA in 1876 with Modjeska (5 August 1876 from Bremen on the "Donau"). She is listed in Dr. Pawlicki's household in San Francisco in the 1880 census.

¹⁰ We are attempting to secure this clipping from the San Francisco *Examiner*