

Letter #12: Henryk Sienkiewicz¹ to Julian Horain²

Exiles, Adventurers, Artists: Letters from Polish California, 1836-1901
Copyright pending. Do not use without permission.



Anaheim, 1877

Please hold on to that letter – don't send it back, as I will be arriving in San Francisco on Sunday, most probably with the captain,³ who'll stay for several days. I can say this much for certain: I will be there, and he will – [for] as long as anyone detains him, which is quite probable. Anyway, nothing is new here. The last time I heard about Chłapowski's⁴ projected departure⁵ was from the general;⁶ I even heard about it from *Pani* [herself],⁷ but I'd be surprised to see this happen so soon. What I wanted to say is that it would be perfect timing – coinciding with McCulloch's⁸ arrival, so arrangements will be settled more quickly and more satisfactorily with no one around to get in the way.⁹ Anyhow, *Pani* won't be under as much stress. If you should see her before Sunday, please kiss her hand and give her my respects. Say hi to our friends. I'll bring your books.

H. Sienkiewicz

¹ Polish journalist and author; awarded the Nobel prize for literature in 1905;

see: <http://culture.pl/en/artist/henryk-sienkiewicz>

Henryk Sienkiewicz sent this letter from Anaheim, California to Julian Horain in San Francisco

² Julian Florian Horain, Polish journalist; see: <http://www.polishclubsf.org/Horain.pdf>

³ Captain Rudolf Korwin Piotrowski; born in Poland; lived in Sebastopol, Sacramento County and in San Francisco; co-founder of the Polish Society of California; served as Commissioner of Immigration; see: <http://www.polishclubsf.org/Piotrowski%20in%20City%20Directories.pdf>

⁴ Karol Bozenta [Bodzenta] Chłapowski, husband of actress Helena Modjeska (see footnote 7)

⁵ In the early days of Helena Modjeska's career, Karol Bozenta [Bodzenta] Chłapowski, Modjeska's husband, was her informal manager; he traveled between Anaheim and San Francisco while Helena Modjeska learned English in San Francisco

⁶ Włodzimierz Krzyżanowski (1824–1887) arrived in the United States in 1846. He joined the Northern side in the American Civil War, and because he made such notable contributions, a year later he was promoted to the rank of general by President Lincoln. He founded The Society for the Assistance of Polish Immigrants [*Towarzystwo Pomocy dla Polskich Imigrantów*]. He was the author of *Memories from a Sojourn in America: 1861–1864*, published in Warsaw, 1883 [*Wspomnień z pobytu w Ameryce*]

⁷ *Pani* (Ma'am) Helena Modrzejewska (Modjeska);

see: <http://culture.pl/en/artist/helena-modrzejewska-modjeska>

Pani, in Polish means literally, "the Lady [madame];" also the feminine singular, honorific pronoun for either "she" or "you."

⁸ John Edward McCullough (1832-1885), a popular American tragedian; beginning in 1866, the owner of the California Theater in San Francisco, where Modjeska appeared for the first time in the United States; see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Edward_McCullough

⁹ In Sienkiewicz's opinion, Modjeska could conduct business with McCullough more effectively without interference from her husband, Karol Bozenta [Bodzenta] Chłapowski

Bożenta C. F., dwi 333 O'Farrell

Karol Bo[d]zenta, husband of Helena Modjeska: 333 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, California

SOURCE:

Letter from Henryk Sienkiewicz to Julian Horain.

Letter number 12, in: Henryk Sienkiewicz, Listy. Tom 1, Cześć 2 . Warszawa 1977; referenced online: <http://www.henryk-sienkiewicz.eu/index.php?id=listy&r=1877&akcja=pokaz>

NOTE: The editors of this English translation have revised and augmented some of the original footnotes by Maria Boksztanin. Some footnotes are our own.

Translated from the Polish by **Bob Lamming**, with **Elżbieta Kieszczyńska** (Clifton, New Jersey) and edited by **Bob Lamming** and **Maureen Mroczek Morris** (San Francisco) with **Roman Włodek** (Kraków) and **Lynn Ludlow** (San Francisco). English summary translation kindly proffered by **Anna Samborska** (San Francisco). Translation commissioned by Maureen Mroczek Morris.



Helena Modrzejewska



Karol Bodzenta (Bożenta)
Chłapowski



John Edward McCullough



Włodzimierz Krzyżanowski