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THE CELEBRATIONS OF 250 YEARS
ANNIVERSARY OF VIENNA VICTORY IN THE LIGHT
OF MATERIALS FROM THE ARCHIVE
OF NEW DOCUMENTS IN WARSAW

In the year 1933 the whole Europe prepared for the celebration of 250 years anniversary of Vienna victory. Many jubilee committees were called into life and their chairmen were people of great authority - outstanding statesmen, priests, representatives of science and art. Every attempt was made to celebrate the great event in the best way and to commemorate the brave knights from Vienna battle, and also to continue the tradition (Fig. 51, 52).

250 years anniversary of Vienna victory was very important to Poles, especially to emigrants, as it was the first celebration on that scale since Poland had regained its independence. Polish emigrants demonstrated their links with their motherland, mastered their historical knowledge and enriched their sensitivity to everything that was Polish. The celebrations in the year 1933 were (with few exceptions) splendid and they were remembered for the following few years.

Information about the jubilee celebrations can be found in the documents preserved in the Archive of New Documents in Warsaw. They are divided into several groups and mainly consist of the documents of Polish diplomatic agencies. They show us the scale of efforts of all those people emotionally involved in commemorating the Vienna heroes.

We can reconstruct quite well the preparations and the celebrations in Austria, Hungary, Germany and Silesia, France, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, England, the United States, Canada and Turkey.

The archive materials are numerous but they are not complete. Unfortunately, the documents of the Polish Embassy in Rome and Vatican and Nunciature of Apostolic See in Warsaw got lost. The lack of those documents makes it impossible to reconstruct the celebra-

tions in Rome where, as we know, the anniversary was celebrated in the atmosphere of religious meditation.

The Archive of New Documents does not have the source materials concerning Czechoslovakia either, although it is certain that the anniversary was celebrated, especially in the towns which had been on the route of the royal forces marching to Vienna.

The celebrations in different countries depended on many factors. The most important were: 1) the meaning of Vienna campaign for the history of a given nation, 2) political situation, especially the relationships with Germany, 3) the number of Polish emigrants and their links with motherland, 4) financial means of the Polish diplomatic agencies, 5) the committal of people responsible for the organisation of the celebrations.

Full programme of celebrations was performed in Poland, Austria and Hungary, i.e. the countries which were most involved in the conflict with Turkey and for which the Vienna victory was a crucial event. In Germany it was not possible, for obvious reasons. In other countries (except for France) the celebrations had local character depending on the activity of Polish emigrants. In America the jubilee was celebrated in a very modest way, contrary to expectations. Nevertheless, the celebrations of 250 years anniversary of Vienna victory proved, in spite of some complications, that Poles dispersed all over the world were still strongly connected with their motherland and their pride in Polish history was strong enough to make them act in a patriotic way.



51. Delegates of Polish aristocracy for celebrations of 250th anniversary of the Battle of Vienna, clad in costumes of Maltese Knights. Vienna 1933



52. Procession of delegates in historical costumes, during celebrations of the Battle of Vienna anniversary in Warsaw 1933