

POLISH SCULPTOR

C. BOW



Sliwinski the Musician. Sculpture by J. Z. Henelt exhibited in the Royal Academy of Art in London, 1945.

and the skillful modeller appears to express in clay the earliest Roman history and ancient Grecian.

"*Motherhood* shows the new development of the sculptor's mind and whilst different countries and varied schools have represented both the ancient and modern, this young Polish sculptor has in this work applied remarkable technique to the modelling of both the mother and child. The spirit of the whole piece is pervaded by a faith that enhances—note the woman's expression

and the curved lines of the child—the figures and base." And anent the portrait bust of General Wladyslaw Sikorski, the late Polish Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief, the *Hippodrome* reports: "It displays the master hand that characterizes the work of some of the greatest sculptors." The Sikorski head is now in the Museum of the Polish Army.

Another work of interest by Henelt is the memorial plaque of "Our Lady of Ostra Brama" presented to Westminster Cathedral by the Squadron "City of Wilno" in the name of the entire Polish Air Force, during an impressive ceremony on March 15, 1944 attended by high-ranking Polish officials headed by the President, the Prime Minister, and the Commander-in-Chief, as well as by prelates and church dignitaries. The bas-relief was placed in the Lady Chapel of Westminster above the arch of a gilded gate leading from the Lady Chapel to the High Altar, and so repeats the tradition of Wilno, where the miraculous image of Our Lady of the Pointed Gate dominates a narrow street. "This plaque," wrote Peter Creighton-Gilbertson in *Wings* following the dedication, "besides being a gift which beautifies the Cathedral, will symbolize the union of those heroic airmen, exiles in this country, with their suffering countrymen at home in Poland; together they will pray, as for cen-



Head of General Wladyslaw Sikorski exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery in London. Next to the sculpture is its author, Sergeant Jozef Zenon Henelt.

turies they have done, that their dear native land will be free, and that the day will not be long till they return to give thanks before the Wilno gate."

A bronze plaque by this soldier-artist featuring the oath-taking ceremony of a Polish Winged Knight hangs in the British Arsenal at Woolich near London, to which it was presented by the Polish gunners who worked at the Arsenal, with the inscription "To the British Gunners Polish Gunners Say Thank You." Another, dedicated "To the Management, Staff and Employees of the Ford Motor Co., Ltd. from the Members of the Polish Army Course," and showing a Polish soldier signalling from a tank, was also executed by Henelt and presented by a group of Polish army engineers and technicians in appreciation of the cordiality and good will shown them during their



The Entombment. Station XIV of fourteen Stations of the Cross, in bronze, by J. Z. Henelt. Polish Church in London.

(Continued on page 6)

J. Z. HENELT - Young Polish Sculptor

(Continued from page 5)

training period in the Ford motor plant at Dagenham, England.

Striking in all of Henelt's art is his great interest in forceful expression with a simultaneous mastery of form. The resultant harmonious work is at times reminiscent of classic sculpture. What fires his imagination in the United States are the wide opportunities for combining sculptural and architectural effects to create a monument of modernity in the style of a Rockefeller Center. Devotional art, or the fusion of piety with artistic expression, is another field that holds allure for him. At present, when every Polish artist who has survived the fury of the Nazi extermination program represents such important cultural capital, let us hope that this young sculptor who has selected the United States for the scene of his carving, will reap the rewards his undeniable talent deserves.



Bronze tablet by J. Z. Henelt presented by members of the Polish Army Course to the Ford Motor Co. plant in England in appreciation of the good will shown them during their training period at the plant.

Book-of-the-Month-Club News Praises

Alexander Janta's *Bound with Two Chains*

THIS is the second book (the first was the absorbing *I Lied to Live*) in which Mr. Janta depicts his experiences as a prisoner of war in Germany. He was captured in 1940, while at the Western Front as a Polish correspondent with the French Army. During almost two years in Nazi captivity he disguised his true identity under a false French name and background. The Germans put him to work as a slave laborer. First he passed from farm to farm, loathing the hard chores and despising the loutish peasant choremakers. Then he was shipped to a factory, finally to a forest camp. Wherever he went he proved unsatisfactory, and he suffered torment lest his true identity be revealed. (His captivity and his alias were the "two chains" which bound him.) Ultimately an amazing avenue of escape developed. He feigned illness, made contact with Polish prisoner-of-war doctors inside a war prison camp, enlisted their help in certifying him as an incurable who ought to be sent home to die. The fake illness went to the length of an operation. The ruse worked, and the captive reached unoccupied France and freedom. It is a very readable and often moving narrative. Mr. Janta's sensitive pictures of his fellow-captives, his sharp portraits of the German masters, his vivid, suspenseful recreation of prison mood and atmosphere have the ring of a great common experience. Millions of captured Europeans lived, suffered, hoped, feared and despaired as did the characters of this book. It is both a remarkable personal adventure and a whole generation's anguish.

—FREDERICK GRUIN



Bronze plaque of a 17th century Polish Winged Knight by J. Z. Henelt presented by Polish Gunners to the Royal British Arsenal in London. Exhibited at the National Gallery in London, 1942.