MME. PADEREWSKI’S DOLLS: DESIGNED AND MADE BY POLISH YOUNG PEOPLE TO HELP THEIR NATIVE LAND: BY ANNA M. LAISE PHILLIPS

Once upon a time, not so long ago, Michele, a young Polish girl, sat looking at the dead embers in her grate, on a damp, dismal day, in Paris. She was many miles away from the home she used to have, and the spot where it had stood was covered with debris. Her father and brothers were somewhere, in some army. She knew that much, and that was all. No, she knew something else. She knew that she was penniless, and that even in Paris, where art is supposed to flourish, for she was an artist, there was no work for her, and no one to buy or admire the pictures she had been accustomed to paint.

As she sat there, looking into the future, a rap at the door aroused her, and her old friend Jedrek, from her home in Cracow, joined her. Jedrek was a sculptor, and, like Michele, there was nothing in the way of his art, that could be sold. Michele’s sense of humor focused itself on Jedrek’s idle hands.

“Don’t sit there like a rag doll, Jedrek; get busy. Let’s do something.” Oh, I’ll tell you, let’s make dolls, just the kind of dolls we used to play with, back in Poland. You make the model, and I’ll paint the faces, and Sophie and Marcella shall dress them.

Dolls dressed in the costumes of various Polish provinces to be sold for the benefit of the Polish Victims’ Relief Fund.

Every child needs a doll. Why, we shall be rich by and by. No,” she said, correcting herself, “we shall never be rich, for we will give all we make, excepting our living, to Poland.”

That was the start. Small beginnings frequently make great endings, and the Polish Doll industry is yet in its infancy, though growing day by day. It took fresh impetus when Madame Paderewski gave the movement her approval and cooperation, by ordering a number of the dolls sent to the National American Committee of the Polish Victims’ Relief Fund, of which Mr. Paderewski is the head. Such an array of dolls has rarely come to New York—New York, that is so accustomed to having importations of unusual things.

Michele and Jedrek designed the dolls to represent every province or section of Poland. Boy dolls and girl dolls, brides and grooms, guides and tinsmiths, there were, showing the costumes and industries of the country, which, when they came, were so unique, and created so much interest, that Edward B. Lyman, Manager of the Fund for Polish relief, saw in them the opportunity to help Poland reflexively. He enlarged the Paris Polish Doll Colony, and engaged to take the entire output. The work has developed a spirit of courage and mutual help among the Polish artists who are joining the Colony in Paris, coming from

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RAG DOLLS IN THE COSTUME OF BRIDE AND GROOM DRESSED BY POLISH YOUNG PEOPLE TO HELP THEIR COUNTRY.

Poland and other war-ridden sections of Europe.

Two little dolls, Jan and Halka, have been selected as particularly appealing to the children, and they are being duplicated in large quantities. When these little "Waifs of Cracow," as they have been named, enter American homes, they tell a more eloquent story than any that could be written for children. Their coming means that a month's supply of food for starving babies in Poland has been provided. Sympathy for suffering and a desire to help other little folks, is stimulated in the hearts of American boys and girls. Thus it comes about that the Polish refugee doll has a mission, the most important that was ever entrusted to wee mites of doll babies. Jan and Halka are open to invitations from any boy or girl or fond parent or loving uncle or aunt, who will send an invitation to the Doll Department of the Polish Victims' Relief Fund.

THESE delightful little dollies will prove the finest kind of Christmas gifts. They make an instant appeal to children and grown-ups not only because they are original and beautiful to look upon, but they have such a winning humorous touch about them. So quaint and individual are they that they seem fairly human. Besides being so individual a toy these dolls have an educational value not to be overlooked. They give the children of our land a good idea of their little neighbor people across the waters, thus developing their sympathy and interest and widening their world of love. They are soft and cuddly, can stand a great deal of dragging about by one foot or by the hair of their heads. Unbreakable, educational, humorous and beautiful, Santa Claus will doubtless put many of them in his pack when he comes down the chimney to reward good little boys and girls.

JAN AND HALKA, "WAIFS OF CRACOW," WAITING TO BE TAKEN INTO AMERICAN HOMES THAT THE CHILDREN OF POLAND MAY BE HELPED.