

TWO WATERCOLOUR PAINTINGS BY RAFAŁ MALCZEWSKI AND THEIR STORIES

by Edward Poznański

Konferencja Naukowa:

“Od Tatr aż po góry skaliste. Malarz polskiego i kanadyjskiego krajobrazu – Rafał Malczewski”

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Edward Poznański presented two watercolour paintings by Rafał Malczewski at the conference.

The first watercolour painting, undated and unofficially titled “Group of Birch Trees in Winter”, belonged originally to Dr. Tadeusz Poznański (1892-1975). The connection between Mr. Malczewski and Dr. Poznański was discussed. Highlights of Dr. Poznański’s actuarial and academic careers in Quebec were covered, as well as his service to the Polish Government-in-Exile (London, England) and the Polish community in Canada.

The second watercolour painting, dated January 1943 and unofficially titled “Silver Birch Tree in a Snow Setting”, is hanging in the Owen Sound and North Grey Union Public Library in Owen Sound, Ontario. The role played by the city of Owen Sound as the host of a Polish Armed Forces training camp in 1941-1942 was discussed. Two different explanations of how Mr. Malczewski’s painting ended up in the Owen Sound Public Library in 1944 were presented and examined.

Postscripts to Mr. Malczewski’s watercolour painting in Owen Sound concluded the presentation. These were the unveiling in November 2018 of a commemorative boulder and plaque in Owen Sound dedicated to the stay of the Polish Armed Forces during World War II and the discovery, in 2006, of a beech tree on the Bruce Trail outside Owen Sound carved with the inscription “14 IV 1942. Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła. Żołnierz wola pomagać.”