

**4 December 2008**

**Hon. Lynne Kosky, MP**

Minister for Public Transport and the Arts

Victoria

Dear Madam,

We would like kindly to ask for meeting with the Hon. Lynne Kosky, MP, Minister for Public Transport and the Arts to discuss the following matter.

The Queen Jadwiga Foundation in cooperation with the Ministry for Culture in Poland is planning to organize two exhibitions in Victoria. The first exhibition titled “Three Polish Masters” would be an occasion for the Victorian people to become familiar with the best Polish artists. Until now there was no possibility for the Victorians to meet with the greatness of the Polish culture and the significant contributions of the Polish artists to the European arts. There are no works of the arts in the National Gallery of Victoria which present contributions of the Polish artists into the European arts. We have never had Polish opera staged in Australia and there are only rudimentary traces of the great Polish culture in main cultural institutions in Australia. As far as we know there are no singers of Polish origin in the Australian opera and there are few musicians of Polish origin that play in the concert halls. Polish community in Victoria contributes significantly to the Victorian budget by paying heavy taxes and we hope that the Victorian Government will appreciate contribution of the Polish community by supporting important cultural events showing greatness of the Polish culture. Until know there was very insignificant support of some amateur events that made impression that Polish culture is perceived by the Victorian Government as not important one.

In the hope of starting a new way of presentation of the Polish culture, the second exhibition which the Queen Jadwiga Foundation in cooperation with the Ministry for Culture in Poland is planning to organize in Victoria is titled „Paraffin lamps – contribution of the Polish scientific achievements into the development of the XXI century civilization”. The exhibition will present beautiful paraffin lamps from the Krosno Museum in Poland. This exhibition will be in homage to the Polish contributors to the beginning of the oil industry. I. Lukasiewicz, inventor of the first oil lamp and builder of the first in the world oil mine, is also a pioneer of the oil industry. Apart from their practical purpose, the provision of lighting, paraffin lamps soon turned into a new type of object d’art and was made in the best workshops of Europe and America. They

were produced to light up princes' palaces and peasants' cottages, town and country. They came to all shapes and sizes, and the materials they would be made of depended on the affluence of the purchaser. The component common to all of them was the paraffin oil.

This exhibition will show also connections among different branches of industries such as chemical industry, car industry and pharmacological industry. This exhibition will be enriched by a series of lectures given by eminent scientists from the Technical University of Krakow and will include memorabilia, models, photographs and multimedia displays prepared by scientists from Polish universities. There is also the possibility to have contribution from other European and American institutions.

We would like kindly to ask the Hon. Lynne Kosky, MP, Minister for Public Transport and the Arts, for personal support and financial support of these exhibitions. We would like kindly to ask for the opportunity to discuss in person all possible sources of financial support and other support such as availability of the venue in the National Gallery of Victoria, professional support of the curators who are members of the NGV and other support which the Ministry for Public Transport and the Arts could provide.

We would like kindly to ask for help in finding sponsors in Australia (Australian companies). We would like kindly to ask the Ministry for Public Transport and the Arts for the patronage to the proposed two exhibitions.

We would be grateful for the prompt response.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Zbigniew Les  
Director  
The Queen Jadwiga Foundation