

JANINA MARIA SOKOLOWSKA 1945 THE FIRST WOMAN VETERINARY SURGEON FROM THE ROYAL (DICK) VETERINARY COLLEGE, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

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INTRODUCTION

Internationally, almost all the students who qualified as veterinary surgeons prior to 1900 were men. However, in the last two decades of the nineteenth century women were expressing their wishes to be similarly qualified. One of the first women to achieve that ambition was Stephania Kruszevska, from Warsaw, Poland, who acquired her veterinary degree in Zurich in 1889^{1,2}. In Scotland, in 1894, William Williams of the New Veterinary College, Elm Row, Edinburgh accepted the application of Aleen Cust (1868-1937). She enrolled in the college under the name A.I. Custance to study veterinary medicine³. Despite examination entitlement impediments placed in her way by the lawyers of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Williams gave her a testimonial in 1900 at the end of her coursework in his college, expressing his satisfaction that she was now a qualified veterinary surgeon⁴.

Notwithstanding this local event, and the news coming from all over Europe that women were being trained in veterinary medicine², the Board of Management of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College continued to refuse to accept women applicants. For example, in 1920 the Board's minutes recorded:

... an application was received from Miss Hilda Bisset to be admitted [as] a student at the college, when it was decided that she should be informed that at present the vacancies were being reserved for ex-service men.

Hilda later went to Dublin and graduated from there instead.

Resistance was not restricted to the Veterinary College. A letter from the Board of Agriculture of Scotland, dated 29th of October 1924, regarding Women Students, stated that that Department was not prepared, meantime, to sanction the additional expenditure which would be necessary if women students were

admitted to the College⁵. Resistance to women continued through the 1930s. It was not until the Board of Management meeting on the 1st of July 1942;

... after the Principal had given an idea of the possible numbers of men students that the College could reasonably expect next October, it was agreed that women students be admitted and suggested that for the first year's course the number should be a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10.

This was due to the effect of WWII in which many males were conscripted into the army and was codified further by the 25th of February 1943. The British Ministry of Labour and National Service had decided on a quota to be admitted to each veterinary college, and that the quota for Edinburgh would be 43 in addition to any students unfit for service and women of whom the minimum should be five and the maximum 10% of the total new entrants. It was not until the 5th of October 1943 that satisfactory accommodation had been provided for women students in the College; viz. the women's common room was temporarily housed in a part of the museum in the Animal Husbandry Department.

JANINA MARIA SOKOŁOWSKA

At this point we need to step back in time in order to introduce the person who would become the first woman to complete her veterinary studies and qualify as a veterinary surgeon from the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, known colloquially as the 'Dick Vet'.

Janina Sokołowska was born on the 21st of November 1914 in Lwów, Poland, into a middle-class family. Her father, Wincenty Sokołowski was a captain in the Polish Army and her mother was Maria Sokołowska née Gąsak^{6,7}. She had a brother named Ryszard, Ryszek to the family.

Her secondary schooling was at the Queen Jadwiga's State Gymnasium for Girls in Lwów⁶. She was a bright student, and by the age of 14 was achieving 'good result' status (in the top 27%) in her class of 44 pupils (Fig. 1)⁸. Janina passed the *Matura* exam in 1934. That year she applied for veterinary studies at the Veterinary Medicine Academy in Lwów (Fig. 2) and was matriculated there on the 5th of December 1934⁶. Perhaps it was during this time that she also received training in nursing¹⁰. Simultaneously during the next five years she also earned a diploma at the Karol Szymanowski Conservatory of Music in Lwów^{10,11}. By the 18th of March 1939, Janina had one year of study remaining to complete her veterinary training. However, these studies were disrupted by World War II.



Fig. 1.
Queen Jadwiga Junior High School in Lwów. Class IVc 1936-1937.
A collective portrait of a group of teachers and students⁹.

In the second row from the bottom, from the left, the teachers are:
2nd. Helena Kostecka (history), 4th. Dr. Maria Polaczkówna
(history, geography), 5th. Wanda Baboniowa (German),
6th. Ludmiła Madlerowa (headmistress),
7th. Janina Laskowska (German),
9th. Maria Reissowa (mathematics, physics),
10th. Rev. Piotr Świerzko (catechist).
Photo: Kazimierz Skórski, Lwów



Fig. 2. **Veterinary Medicine Academy in Lwów pre-1940.**
(Jurij Skoblenko

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via Wikimedia Commons)

WAR EXPERIENCE

The conditions in Lwów in September 1939 were chaotic. First the German army attacked the city from the west in mid-September. They were replaced by the Red Army invasion from the east several days later. Lwów surrendered to the latter and all the officers of the Polish Army were arrested; most of them, including Janina's father, Wincenty Sokolowski, were subsequently murdered by the Russians in the 1940 Katyn Massacre¹⁰. In 1940, many of the civilians, including Janina, her mother, grandmother and brother were put onto trains and sent first to Russia and then on to southern Siberia, near the Chinese border; the nearest large city was Ajaguz in East Kazakhstan^{6,10,12}. Kazakhstan was the destination of most Polish deportees in 1940-1941^{13,14}. Like other Polish captives, Janina and her brother were under-fed. They were also over-worked in various ways, such as harvesting wheat by hand on a large collective farm¹⁰. This was a completely different way of life for the young woman. She later stated;

I didn't know how to iron or how to wash when they took me. I worked 10 hours a day with little food, doing veterinary work in the field and dirty work¹⁰.

Even at night there was no rest. Whenever an animal was sick, she would be roused¹². They remained in Siberia for two years.

Following the invasion of Russia by Germany in 1941, Marshall Josef Stalin was compelled to release the Poles held in captivity, as he needed additional soldiers to fight the Nazis. Władysław Anders was tasked with forming those who were Polish soldiers into an army to fight the Germans¹³. Janina was notified that she would join the Polish Army as a veterinarian¹². In 1928 military training had begun in her school⁸ and in 1938 the law of conscription applied to women as well as men¹³. Between 24th of March and the 5th of April 1942, some 70,500 Polish soldiers and civilians were evacuated by train and by ship from Central Asia to Persia [Iran]¹³. Janina remained in Russia while she recuperated from typhoid fever¹⁰. The second evacuation, of almost 44,000 Polish troops and civilians, began in mid-July of 1942¹³ (Fig. 3). Janina and future fellow students Zbigniew Doroszyński and Maurycy Gitter reported that they had also travelled to Persia with the assistance of the British^{14,15}. On entering Persia, the Polish Army in the USSR came under British command¹³. Janina was transferred on to Iraq. The Polish refugees there spent a year in the desert as part of 'Anders Army' where they were issued with military equipment and received training^{12,13}. In Iraq, Janina, who had been doing meat inspection as an army 'private', was made the commanding officer of some of the 'helpers' at a hospital. She was also the meat inspector at a Hindu slaughterhouse¹⁰. It was perhaps here that Janina received further training in nursing.



Fig. 3. Polish refugees evacuated to Persia by General Anders, 1942

From Iraq, Janina was convoyed through Syria to Palestine, then to Egypt and back again to Palestine. Once there, she was given orders to take 350 Polish women to England¹⁰. Her brother, travelled with her¹¹. The available evidence indicates that he married and remained in England. Janina was transferred up to Scotland where large numbers of other Poles had been gathered¹⁶. In 1943 she applied for and obtained leave from the Polish army for one year to continue her veterinary studies at the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College⁶.

It is important to introduce a fellow veterinary student from Lwów at this point in the story, for reasons that will become clear slightly further on. Kazimierz Antoni Franciszek Sołtowski was born on the 27th of February 1914 into a farming family in Folwarki, Złoczów, about 67km east of Lwów, the son of Józef Sołtowski and Pauline Malkiewicz Sołtowska^{11,17,18,19}. He had a brother and two sisters. His schooling was at the King Jan Sobieski III State High School in Zloczow, in the Tarnopol district (Fig. 4), where he was a bright student²⁰. In 1932, having finished his schooling, he then went on to matriculate as a student at the Veterinary Medicine Academy in Lwów (Fig. 2). In first year, he studied general and applied physics, zoology and botany. In second year, the subjects were agriculture, histology and embryology, anatomy of domestic animals, physiology,

and chemical physiology. After finishing second year, he took a one-year break in his studies and signed up for military infantry reserve training in Tarnopol²¹. With his military service completed, he returned to his studies and continued as far as receiving permission to graduate, in March 1938. His first diploma examination included microbiology, general pathology, pharmacology, internal medicine, surgery, parasitology, and topographical anatomy. On the 15th of March 1938 he received his call up for the army in the Lwów administrative district, Tarnobrzeg province. In January 1939 he returned to the Veterinary Medicine Academy and passed his exams in parasitology, surgery, and topographical anatomy. Over this five-year study period, in addition to attending the obligatory lectures, completing the required practical classes and colloquia, he had studied for his animal husbandry exam, but war prevented him from sitting it²¹. Janina would have followed a similar programme of studies.



Fig. 4. King Jan Sobieski III State High School in Zloczow²⁰

That September Kazimierz served in the army against the invading Germans⁹. He escaped to neutral Hungary where he was caught and interned. Following his escape, he later fled to Yugoslavia, Italy and, via France, to England, as did Ewa Missiuro, another woman who would apply to study veterinary medicine in Edinburgh^{12,22}. A more detailed description of this escape route, taken by fellow Lwów veterinary student Mieczysław (Miętek) Jan de Sas Kropiwnicki, has recently been published²³. Once in England Kazimierz volunteered to join the British Colonial Forces and saw service in West Africa and Ghana from 1940

until 1942, as did fellow Lwów veterinary student Bronisław Zygałło^{12,15,24}. He was then sent to Scotland by the Polish Army.

The other 60 odd Polish students destined to study veterinary medicine at the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College from 1943 onwards, arrived in Edinburgh by a variety of different geographical routes²⁵.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 'POLISH VETERINARY FACULTY' IN EDINBURGH

On 26th of February 1941 the Principal of the College, Sir Arthur Olver, reported to his Board of Management:

*... that a certain number of Polish [army veterinary] officers were working in the various departments of the College*²⁶. The hope was expressed at the meeting:

... that in the very near future certain classes might be conducted by Polish veterinary professors for any Polish students who might be in this country. Professor Crew [a Board member] reported on the establishment of a Polish Faculty of Medicine in Edinburgh and expressed the hope that the Polish Government might establish a Polish Veterinary School here on similar lines.

On the 13th of November 1940 the University of Edinburgh Senatus Academicus approved the establishment of the Polish Medical School (PMS)²⁷. Following the discussions in 1940 between the Polish authorities and the professors and veterinarians in Scotland, a Polish commission was proposed to establish a veterinary study unit in Edinburgh at the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, and to develop the Regulations for this Commission for Academic Studies in Veterinary Medicine²⁸. The general internal organization of the Commission of Academic Veterinary Medicine Studies was based on the organisational model at pre-war (pre-1939) Polish university faculties.

A group headed by Prof. Stanisław Runge, had been busy with Superintendent-Inspector Major Rabagliati and Lt. Col. Wroceński of the Polish Army and others, creating the right conditions for veterinary students to obtain study leave from the army to continue their education and obtain a veterinary diploma^{25,28}. The first indication of this surfaced on the 1st of December 1942³⁰. The Education Committee of the Dick Vet:

... considered a request by the Polish Military Veterinary Authorities that the privilege of studying and finishing their studies in the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College be granted to certain Polish veterinary students now resident in this country. The Principal, [Sir Arthur Olver], stated that he understood that the number of students concerned was about eight, and it was agreed that facilities be granted to those students who would be obliged to pay the same fees as other veterinary students attending the College. The Polish authorities understood that

these students would be examined by the College internal examiners and would be granted a certificate if such was deemed justified. These students would not obtain the diploma of M.R.C.V.S. The question of the language difficulty was mentioned, but it was understood that this would not present any great difficulty.

A pencil addition to the 1941-42 Head of School's annual report already stated: *a number of Polish [students] have been under training*³¹. Mieczysław (Miętek) Jan de Sas Kropiwnicki recorded that he had begun his veterinary studies in Edinburgh on the 15th of October 1942²³.

A special meeting of the College Education Committee was held on the 3rd of September 1943:

*... to consider a letter from the Polish Board of Education enquiring whether the College would agree to accept a number of advanced Polish students (in any case no more than 20-25), to give them access to the establishments and clinics of the College and facilitate the task of the Supervising Committee by giving it one or two rooms*³².

The principal was asked if he could make the necessary arrangements and replied: *... that, while the question of accommodation was a difficulty, he thought arrangements could be made. The meeting accordingly agreed to accede to the request but decided that an undertaking be obtained from the Polish Veterinary Committee, acting on the authority of the Polish Government, that none of the Polish students accepted under this arrangement will be permitted to take up any form of veterinary work in this country after the war. It was noted that the students would not be taking the R.C.V.S. diploma, and that the Polish Ministry of Education will be responsible for their fees. As it was necessary that the Department of Agriculture be informed of the position, a letter to the Department was to be drafted and submitted to the Chairman [Professor James Ritchie] in the first instance.*

About one month later the Department of Agriculture replied that it had no objection to the proposed arrangement. A letter was also submitted to the Polish Government³³.

After obtaining approval from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the Board of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, it was possible for the Polish authorities to recommend 9 students and 10 veterinary alumni for the 1943/44 academic year²⁸.

EDINBURGH COMMISSION FOR ACADEMIC STUDIES IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

Edynburgu Komisję Akademickich Studiów Medycyny Weterynaryjnej
(EKASMW)

A letter from the Minister of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment, Reverend Prelate Zygmunt Kaczyński, on 5th of August 1943, established the Edynburgu Komisję Akademickich Studiów Medycyny Weterynaryjnej (EKASMW) Edinburgh Commission for Academic Studies in Veterinary Medicine^{29,34,35}. The members of this

Committee in Edinburgh were: Professor Dr Stanisław Runge as Dean, Professors Bolesław Gutowski, Józef Kulezycki and Tadeusz Olbrycht, and Associate Professor Dr. Stanisław Mglej.

On the 13th of September 1943 the inauguration of the EKASMW took place in the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College at Summerhall. The President of Poland, Mr Władysław Raczkiewicz, General Janusz Głuchowski, the Commandant of Training Brigade, the Reverend Prelate Zygmunt Kaczyński, the Polish Minister of Education and Professor Stanisław Runge the senior Polish veterinary academic of the 'Committee' were welcomed to the College by Professor Sir Arthur Olver. The available evidence clearly indicates that Janina and Kazimierz had reached Edinburgh by the autumn of 1943; they were photographed standing on the steps of the College among the dignitaries (Fig. 5).

In her letter to Professor Runge⁶ asking to undertake studies in Edinburgh (Fig. 6), Janina reported that:

... she had passed the exams of her first and the second year in Lwów Veterinary Medicine Academy and the first veterinary diploma exams which had been noted in her 'index book' (Fig. 7).

In terms of her second diploma exam, she passed the exams in Internal Medicine, Pharmacology, Surgery and a test in Ophthalmology. However, only the Internal Medicine exam's mark was recorded. In the third diploma exam she passed the exams in Infectious Diseases and Animal Breeding. She told Professor Runge that these marks had not been noted in her Polish index book. The Soviets had required [the students] to hand in their Polish index book and they were given Soviet index books instead. In fact, she had hidden her Polish index book. She no longer had it in her possession. The evidence of the marks she had achieved had been left in her professors' files in Lwów.

To obtain the veterinary diploma she indicated that she was obliged to take and pass the following exams: Obstetrics, Orthopaedic Surgery, Pathology, Meat Inspection, Veterinary Forensic Medicine and Veterinary Public Health.

Obstetrics, Orthopaedic Surgery, Pathology and Meat Inspection were obligatory subjects in the Polish veterinary curriculum for graduates. The revisions during the lectures were considered as passed exams. Veterinary Forensic Medicine and Knowledge of the Polish State Veterinary Service (and its organisation) were not included in the Soviet curriculum. She had passed all of the above-mentioned exams in March, before 19th of April 1940⁶.



Fig. 5.
The opening of the Medical Veterinary Study in Edinburgh (ASMW, soon to become the Polish Veterinary Faculty) on the 13th of September 1943

In the front row from l to r:

Professor Stanisław Runge, Rev. Father Zygmunt Kaczyński (Minister of Education), President Władysław Raczekiewicz, Professor Sir Arthur Olver and General Janusz Głuchowski. From l to r, standing behind and seen, in uniform, between Professor Runge and Rev. Father Kaczyński, is Kazimierz Sołtowski. Standing directly behind him, with glasses and a trilby hat is Lieutenant Vet. Dr. Stanisław Mglej. In the second row, from l to r, in civilian dress between Rev. Father Kaczyński and slightly behind President Raczekiewicz is Bronisław Zygađło, between President Raczekiewicz and Professor Olver, is Janina Sokołowska, and behind Professor Olver, also in uniform, is Władysław Roziński. Between them, at the very back, is Mieczysław (Mietek) Jan de Sas Kropiwnicki.

Wzwołaniemcy Komisji Akademickiej Studyjo
Weterynaryjnych przy Royal (Rich) Veterinary College
w Edynburgu prof. dr. Stanislaw Runge.

Formę a porządkiem zdawania egzaminów przed
Kom. Akad. Studyjo Vet., potrzebnych mi do otrzymania
mojego dyplomu lekarska wet.

Wt. we dworze d. 17. 1848. Opisz mój Wzrosty kpt. W.P.
matka Maria z Sokołowska Szolowska.

29. 1834 z rodzicami matkę w pow. grom. and. w. Lwów.
Ludwika w dworze. W tymże samym roku 1834 zapisałam
się na Akademię Medycyny Weterynaryjnej w dworze. Wydział
imacykulturacyjny 5. 1834. Anatomia stryżeniowa 15. 1834.
Droży i drogi agr. rożny, oraz pierwszy dyplom. moim zdaniem
w zupełności, oraz naty napisane mi w anekcie. —
Z drugiego agr. dyplom. moim zdaniem, internę, farmakologię
skierującą, oraz kalendarium i anatomię. Naty moim napisane
szkolony z internę.
Z trzeciego agr. dyplom. moim zdaniem agr. i choroby zwierzęce
i traktaty recepcyjny.

Naty one napisane mi w anekcie alatego, ponieważ sawszi
harkali odlaty imtelny, polale i oca ocam sawszi. Brokto
muzykatom zdaje i naty te wotchy a profamino.

Do wyplacenia dyplomu braki mi agr. i pobawimto, otopadki,
wrot. potal. migra, weterynaryj. zlowe i z owale i egzaminacy
sawitowej Anoty weterynaryj. — Pobawimto wtopadki, ocam potal
migra. — Byly oburzenia wyplacenie przed prof. dr. absolutoris
i potalu Ina wyplacenie humanitarsa na agronom. Porozumie
dwa egzaminacy wotchy oca wotchy z progromes nowoclam
Wtyj wymienione egzaminacy zdane i nie napisane byly zdawane
na moim i przed 13. tym kretnis 1848. —

V. Runy

Sokolowska Janina

POUSH INSTITUTE AND SIKORSKI MUSEUM
Archives Ref no. KOL. 458/7.
Copyright: Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum

Fig. 6.

Letter of application to matriculate in the Medical Veterinary Study in
Edinburgh sent by Janina Sokolowska to Professor Stanislaw Runge
detailing the courses she had taken at Lwów Veterinary Medicine
Academy. (Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, Kol.459/8.)

I. Grupa egzaminów (promocyjna) po I. roku							
Stud. med.	Przedmiot	Data	Wynik	Podpis Dyktando	Data	Egzamin poprawkowy	
						Wynik	Podpis Dyktando
	Psycho	1933	Dobry	/			
	Chimik ogólna	1933	Dobry				
Egzamin z <u>Pierwszej</u> grupy <u>22.02.34</u> <u>Olwid. And. het. Suki.</u>							
W razie powtórzenia II. studiów							
Stud. med.	Przedmiot	Data	Wynik	Podpis Dyktando	Data	Egzamin poprawkowy	
						Wynik	Podpis Dyktando
	Psycho						
	Chimik ogólna						

II. Grupa egzaminów (promocyjna) po II. roku							
Stud. med.	Przedmiot	Data	Wynik	Podpis Dyktando	Data	Egzamin poprawkowy	
						Wynik	Podpis Dyktando
	Antatomia	15.12 21	dobry	/	P.H.		
	Historia	1934	Dobry				
	Psychologia	1934	Dobry				
	Chimia Fiz.	1934	bardzo Dobry				
	Biologia	1934	bardzo Dobry				
Egzamin z <u>Drugiej</u> grupy <u>22.02.34</u> <u>Olwid. And. het. Suki.</u>							
Stud. med.	Przedmiot	Data	Wynik	Podpis Dyktando	Data	Egzamin poprawkowy	
						Wynik	Podpis Dyktando

Fig. 7.

An example of the Lwów Veterinary Index/Record Book, belonging to Olgierd Rymaszewski. (Polish School of Medicine Museum, University of Edinburgh)

Veterinary studies were to be conducted in accordance with the regulations in force in Poland before the war³⁶. On the basis of an oral agreement with Sir Arthur Olver, Polish students could attend the Veterinary College lectures, and these classes were to be supplemented with Polish lectures and practicals according to the Polish curricula. Polish lecturers were assigned offices for their work and were permitted to use the clinics, laboratories, and facilities of the College. Individual Polish departments were formed and had their own clinical equipment and

laboratories, purchased from the Commission's budget. The Commission had a small reference library which contained several dozen books. It also paid the College an annual fee of 33 guineas for each student²⁹.

The first academic year for the Polish staff and students at the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College in Edinburgh was officially opened on the 11th of October 1943. It was attended by the minister of religious denominations and public enlightenment, Rev. Prelate. Zygmunt Kaczyński and the director of the National Culture Fund, Dr. Jan Hulewicz. In addition, the Dean of the Polish Medical Faculty in Edinburgh, Prof. Dr. Antoni Jurasz, together with the professors of the Polish Medical Faculty and the Principal of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Sir Arthur Olver, together with a group of professors and assistants, participated. Fourteen students, mostly advanced in studies or graduates from the Veterinary Faculty at the Józef Piłsudski University in Warsaw and the Veterinary Medicine Academy in Lwów, matriculated^{28,29}.

The total number of subjects made available to Janina, Kazimierz and the other final year students and graduates was 13. The number of lecture hours in the first trimester was 26, in the second trimester 23, and in the third trimester 27 hours per week. The weekly number of practical training hours was 22 in both the first and second trimester, and 32 hours in the third trimester. Some of these lectures and practicals will have been given by Polish staff and others by the College staff²⁸. Veterinary Forensics and the Organization of Polish State Veterinary Services were taught by Polish lecturers. The requirements of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College were very strict, both in terms of lecture and class attendance, and in the passing of exams. It was reported that, in general, Polish students studied diligently and obtained good exam grades.

In addition to these lectures and practicals, the students took part in three larger scientific trips to various breeding farms, experimental stations and meat processing plants in Scotland and England and had several clinical visits to outpatients²⁸.

All of the diploma examinations were conducted in Polish by the Examination Committee, which was composed of members of the EKASMW^{28,36}.

Graduates who passed all three groups of diploma examinations, i.e., 16 examinations and three compulsory colloquiums, obtained certificates confirming the completion of the prescribed five years of study. Having passed all examinations and compulsory diploma examinations, they were awarded the degree and title of a veterinary doctor. They also had the right to replace the Edinburgh-gained certificate with an original certificate of veterinary doctor,

issued by one of the Polish university veterinary schools after returning to that country. However, they could still not practice veterinary medicine in the United Kingdom.

POLISH STUDENT LIFE IN EDINBURGH

The Polish students and graduates of veterinary medicine set up a 'Veterinary Medicine Circle', under the chairmanship of Professor Kulczycki. A number of the Polish students also belonged to the University's Students' Union and took a lively part in the work of that association³⁶. The President of the Students Representative Council (SRC) in the Veterinary College also invited the Polish students to participate fully in the activities of College life³⁷.

A scientific meeting of Polish Veterinary Surgeons, which both Janina and Kazimierz attended, was held from the 27th-29th of July 1944, in the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College (Fig. 8.). Prof. Runge, the Chairman of the Polish Committee of Medical-Veterinary Study, opened the meeting, speaking on the role of Veterinary surgeons in post-war Poland³⁸. A short ceremony followed during which the first Polish diplomas in veterinary surgery to be granted in Britain were distributed to the graduates. During this scientific meeting a total of fourteen papers were given. These were followed by a discussion of the status of the Association of Veterinary Surgeons, the election of a new committee, and by a discussion, introduced by Stanisław Michna, on the need for reorganisation of the [Polish] veterinary service.

By 1945 Janina was staying in private accommodation at 17 Gladstone Terrace as a lodger with Evaline Kerr. Kazimierz also stayed in private accommodation, c/o Mrs Carruthers at 10 Grove Street, Edinburgh from 1943 until 1945^{7,21}.

According to Runge²⁸, Kazimierz Sołtowski completed his studies, entitling him to obtain his certificate granting the degree and title of veterinary surgeon before October 1944. Following completion of their studies, all Polish graduates were obliged to undergo a three-to-six-month postgraduate internship in a veterinary experimental facility or at a private veterinary clinic^{28,36}. In the autumn of 1944, Kazimierz saw practice in a veterinary hospital in London and was also welcomed to spend three months at Liverpool University's Veterinary Field Station³⁹.

However, an internal Polish inspection, carried out in Prof. Runge's presence, by an employee of the Supreme Audit Office, NIK (Najwyższa Izba Kontroli), Ernest Boheim, revealed an important administrative problem⁴⁰. The EKASMW that had so far been established in Edinburgh was a 'Study Unit' in line with the requirements for a Higher Education School, but without its status or that of a

duly constituted Faculty. Action to remedy the situation was taken swiftly. And in November 1944 the Polish Board of Education in London changed the name of the *Polish Committee of Medical Veterinary Study* to the *Polish Veterinary Faculty*^{41,42}. This had been the name already in common use at the Edinburgh Veterinary College since 1943. The issuing of a government decree on 10th of April 1945 gave the Polish Veterinary Faculty the appropriate powers it required²⁹.



Fig. 8.

Photograph, taken on the north side of the courtyard of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, of those Polish veterinary surgeons and students who attended a Polish scientific meeting on the 27th-29th of July 1944. Janina Sokołowska is clearly seen as the only woman, with Bronisław Zygałdo crouched down in front of her. Kazimierz Sołtowski is the tall figure, standing fifth from the left of the group. The tallest person in the second row, just to the left of the William Dick statue, is Mieczysław (Mietek) Jan de Sas Kropiwnicki. (Archives of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, CRC, The University of Edinburgh).

Janina Maria Sokołowska was the first woman to have completed her veterinary studies at the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College (Fig. 9.). Kazimierz Sołtowski

received his certificate on 6th of October 1945²⁹ after returning from seeing veterinary practice in England⁴³.



Fig. 9.

The diploma, signed on 28th of April 1945 by professors of the Polish Veterinary Faculty in Edinburgh, certifying that Janina Maria Sokolowska passed the prescribed exams and is now qualified to practice as a veterinarian in the limits of the statutes applicable in the Polish Republic. (Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, Kol.459/8.)

On 8th of May 1945 war in Europe officially ended. Six weeks later the process of demobbing the troops began. However, the Polish troops under British Command refused to stand down and this 'Polish Problem' resulted in the establishment of the Polish Resettlement Corps which took on these responsibilities from 1946 -1949⁴⁴. On the 2nd of September 1945 the Second World War had ended. Later that year the process of demobbing the Allied troops based in Asia and South-east Asia also began⁴⁵.

On the 5th of November 1945 Janina and Kazimierz were married in St Anne's Oratory, Randolph Place, Edinburgh¹⁹. She was listed in the marriage register as a Private in the Polish Forces; he had the rank of 2nd Lieutenant (Fig. 10).



Fig. 10.
Wedding photo of Janina Sokolowska and Kazimierz Soltowski¹¹

EMIGRATION TO USA

After being demobbed from the Polish army in 1947, the couple set off from 17 Keir Street, Edinburgh to emigrate to the USA on the newly completed (August 1947) ship, *Nova Scotia* of the Shipping Company – Furness Warren, a Passenger Refrigerated Cargo Ship. They left Liverpool on the 15th of November 1947 and sailed via St John's Newfoundland and Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, to Boston. The day after they arrived, they both applied for citizenship papers¹⁰. They travelled to the home of Julius Lorenz, Janina's uncle in Chicago⁹. At first, Janina secured employment with the State of Illinois testing cattle for brucellosis. Later she was employed in a large Chicago music store. Kazimierz worked in a small animal hospital in Chicago¹⁰. For the first few years they lived at 1907 N. Hoyne Ave, Chicago.



Fig. 11.

This painting of St John by Janina Soltowska is currently hanging in St John's Catholic Church, Appleton, Minnesota

The inscription on the parchment scroll is in Greek and is taken from the Gospel of John, Chapter 1 verse 1 (first half of the verse only) and John Chapter 16 verse 27 (first half of the verse only) and reads:

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ Λόγος αὐτὸς γὰρ ὁ πατὴρ φιλεῖ ἡμᾶς
ὅτι ἡμεῖς ἐμὲ ἐφιλήκατε

The English translation reads: 'In the beginning was the Word': For the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved me'.

A 1936 Polish translation, with which both Janina and Kazimierz would probably have been familiar, is: Na początku było Słowo: Ojciec bowiem sam was miłuje, Ponieważ wyście Mnie umiłowali.

Kazimierz received his citizenship papers in 1952¹⁰ and Janina received hers on 25th of February 1953. In 1952 Janina became a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), working in the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) in Saint Paul, Minnesota. That same year Kazimierz also became AVMA accredited and was working in Special Small Animal Medicine for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Saint Paul, Minnesota⁴⁶.

They both took jobs with the federal government and were sent to Minnesota in 1953^{47,48}. There they were placed in mobile veterinary units run by the U.S. Bureau of Animal Industry in its campaign to rid the state of brucellosis. Kazimierz was promoted to become Federal Field Veterinarian, based in Appleton, Swift County, overseeing the eradication of animal diseases in several counties of Minnesota^{11,18}. He was elected President of the local central branch of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association in 1957⁴⁹. Janina stayed working with a mobile veterinary unit until 1954. She then retired to become a full-time housewife and artist (Fig. 11), and a member of the Minnesota Rural Artists Association^{10,50}. Nevertheless, AVMA records for 1964 and 1972 show that she had maintained her membership of the AVMA.



Fig. 12.
Gravestone of Kazimierz and Janina Soltowski
in Appleton Cemetery, Minnesota.
The carving in the centre is the veterinary symbol
(Photo: Cynthia Hendrickx, Appleton, Minnesota)

Janina and Kazimierz were members of St. John's Catholic Church in Appleton where she served as an organist. She was also a past president of the American Legion Auxiliary and Hospital Auxiliary. Kazimierz died after a long illness on 26th of May 1981. Janina died on 15th of September 1994. They are buried together in Appleton Cemetery (Fig. 12)⁵¹.

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**FROM *Diseases of Dogs and their Treatments* Fifth Edition by Hugh Dalziel
1915 edition p 1**

It is said that every man forty years of age should be his own doctor, and there is, I think, still more reasons why every man who owns a dog, even without having attained the age of forty, should be, in all simple cases, his own dog doctor; indeed, there is no one so well qualified as the master, for he best knows the peculiarities of habit and temperament of his favourite, and is therefore in the best position to administer to his ailment when 'out of sorts.' Home treatment may be successfully practised if a few fundamental facts are borne in mind and a few ruling principles of action observed.