Hearts of Darkness:
Melville and Conrad in the Space
of World Culture
4-7 August 2007 Szczecin, Poland
The Melville Society’s Sixth International Conference

Tour Package TWO:
"From Szczecin to Gdansk and Malbork: A Journey through Time and Space"

Dates: 8* – 12* August 2007
Maximum group size: 24 persons

Anyone interested in the nautical literature will certainly enjoy the short, but multidimensional exploratory visit along the Polish coastline. We will take you for a trip in time and in space: the beauty of places will gain historical and cultural context that opens up the eyes of those attempting to understand the complex, dramatic fates of Poland, and multinational and multietnic character. We have not invented a time machine yet, but, as you will see, we have come as close to it as is only possible.

Here is how:

Day One: SZCZECIN-SLUPSK

After breakfast in Szczecin, we will board our coach to depart for Slupsk: the City of Four Gates. In the first “port of call” of our journey of modernity and history, the present, the past and the future begin to coalesce, contributing to the visitor-friendly atmosphere. The route of the tour includes, among others, the Castle of the Dukes of Pomerania, The Castle Mill and the charming Burgher Houses at the Old Town. After lunch, we will continue our journey to Chmielno and its magnificent museum of the Cashubian ceramics, priding itself
with collections of the last three generations of craftsmen and women. Eventually, in the evening, we arrive in the beautiful Leźno Palace.

**Day Two: LEZNO-GDANSK**

Having had our breakfast and the morning coffee, we will resume our journey through time and space. We will go by coach to Kartuzy with its unique Cashubian Museum, where the artifacts of the Cashubian culture – beginning with marvelous embroidery and ceramics and finishing with poetry and music – have been collected to illustrate the dramatic fates of the Polish seaboard. The visit will also demonstrate why the Cashubians, next to the Masurians and Silesians, are considered one of the three Polish ethnic minority groups whose impact upon the shape of the Polish national has been the most significant.

No doubt, while visiting the region of Cashubia it is an absolute must to visit Gdańsk, the capital of the Polish Pomerania. The impressive, cosmopolitan City of breathtaking beauty and unique location has been shaped by a millennium of history, within which time creative minds and timeless talent of its eminent inhabitants of Polish and German background alike have left an irremovable mark upon its architecture, its art, its literature, economy and customs. We will have a rare opportunity to be guided through all of the most famous historical and cultural attractions of the City, among which the best known are Ulica Długa (The Long Street), Długi Targ (The Long Market), The Royal Tract, The Town Hall, The Artus’s Court, the Neptune Fountain, the Golden House, and the largest mediaeval harbor crane in Europe, the Gdańsk Crane.
To the contemporary world, however, Gdańsk is a foremost symbol of civil liberty and national freedom. The famous Solidarity strikes of 1980 in the Gdańsk Shipyard eventually led to the downfall of the communist regime, questioned the post-war divisions of the world and, eventually, resulted in the reshaping of contemporary Europe. In the course of our visit to the Gdańsk Shipyard, we will see the Monument of the Fallen Shipyard Workers, who were murdered by the forces of the regime in December 1970, as well as the exhibition of “The Freedom Path,” which includes, among others, a fragment of the Berlin Wall, a fragment of the Lech Wałęsa Wall – the wall which the legendary leader of the so-called Polish August’ 80 and then the first democratically elected President of the Republic of Poland jumped to lead the strike – as well as the famous table of the “21 Postulates.” In the course of the visit we will take a brake for lunch, in which dishes of the traditional Polish cuisine will be served. Throughout the rest of the day, all of us will enjoy free time in Gdańsk. The return to Leżno Palace, our base, is planned for the evening.

Day Three: THE TRI-CITY

After breakfast, we all return to Gdańsk. We will begin the day with the visit of Gdańsk-Oliwa, one of the most interesting quarters of the City. We will pay a visit to one of the most impressive monuments of sacral art, the magnificent 13th century Oliwa Cathedral, priding itself with the famous rococo organ, the Cathedral’s most beautiful ornament. We will have an opportunity of participation in a musical feast as well. Knowing that a number of Melvilleans and Conradians enjoy classical music almost as much as they do literature, our visit to Gdańsk would not be complete without a concert performed on one of the most famous instruments in the world. Bearing in mind that world-famous virtuosos regularly perform concerts playing the Oliwa organ and that for the past half a century the Oliwa Cathedral has been home to the prestigious International Festival for Organ Music, a visit in the Oliwa Cathedral will undoubtedly encourage many of the time-space travelers to return to Poland often.
After the concert, the group will return to the coach to depart for Sopot, a famous spa of the Baltic coast. The program of the visit includes the tour of the longest wooden jetty in Europe, the Tilted House, and the most famous Polish promenade with its numerous pubs and galleries. After lunch, we will enjoy free time: individual walks in the charming Sopot will do everyone good.

Later, we will transfer to Gdynia. The Mecca of the Polish yachtsmen and yachtwomen, beloved by the Polish youth, and important sail-training center, and object of numerous sea-songs, Gdynia and an important seaport, which together with Gdańsk and Sopot makes up the Tri-City. In Gdynia, we will visit the Kościuszko Square with the Joseph Conrad monument, the beautiful Polish full rigger “Dar Pomorza” and the famous Polish man-of-war ORP “Błyskawica,” a veteran of the World War II. For those partial to sailing, a peak at the yacht harbor across the square and the numerous pubs and taverns on the beach will be an interesting option as well.
Day Four: GDANSK-MALBORK

Breakfast over, the group will travel to Wieżyca, the highest promontory in the European Lowland. The promontory offers a breathtaking panorama of the Cashubian region; in nice weather one can clearly see the cityscape of Gdańsk overlooking the charming semidisc of the Gulf of Gdańsk. From there we will continue our journey to Malbork, the picturesque old capital of the Knights of the Teutonic Order and the largest Gothic keep in Europe. The castle of Malbork is the most extensive castle complex in the world and the largest brick building ever erected in history. To anyone interested in the complex history of Poland, this will be a most memorable visit: the picturesque and the sublime in one.

On our return to Leżno, a unique Cashubian feast has been planned especially for the Conference Participants: traditional food and drinks accompanied with the performance of the Cashubian folk band and a competition of snuff sneezing will provide ample opportunities for communal merrymaking.

Day Five: RETURN TO BERLIN

After breakfast in the hospitable Leżno Palace the coach will take everyone back to Goleniów Airport (ca. 16:00), Szczecin (ca. 17:00) and then we will bid Poland farewell and go to
Spreebogen Hotel in Berlin (ca. 20). We will stop and take a lunchbreak on our way.

**ELEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:**

- four overnights including breakfasts in the Leżno Palace
- five traditional Polish meals (rather large, served ca. 1PM) - no beverages included
- three suppers (no beverages included)
- Regional Kashubian feast including a welcome drink and a performance by a folk band
- Coach and pedestrian tours of Słupsk, Gdańsk, Gdynia, Sopot
- Local Anglophone guides in Słupsk, Gdańsk, Gdynia, Sopot, Chmielno, Kartuzy, Malbork
- Entry ticket for the Malbork Castle
- Entry ticket for the Ceramics Factory and Museum in Chmielno
- Entry ticket for the Oliwa Cathedral and the Organ Concert
- Entry ticket for the Museum in Kartuzy
- Entry ticket to the exhibition in Gdańsk Shipyard
- All coach transfers
- Anglophone MWE pilot throughout the tour (Szczecin - Berlin)

**The price for the whole tour is complete, i.e.: it includes all local fees and the VAT tax**

**Special price per person in a double room:** **469,00 Euro**  
**Special price per person in a single room:** **561,00 Euro**  
**Extra bed in a double room:** **399,00 Euro**

**E-MAIL, PHONE or FAX us to BOOK**

**We will be delighted to serve you!**

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