

## History

*Rota's* lyrics were written in 1908 by Maria Konopnicka. The music was composed two years later by Feliks Nowowiejski.

Konopnicka's poem came into being as a protest against the German Empire's oppression and suppression of Polish culture in German-occupied western Poland — lands that from the late 18th century after the Partitions of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth to 1918 were under Prussian — and later, German — rule.

*Rota* was first sung publicly during a patriotic demonstration in Kraków on July 15, 1910, held to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Polish-Lithuanian victory over the Teutonic Knights at the Battle of Grunwald. The anthem quickly became popular across partitioned Poland.

Until 1918, *Rota* served as the anthem of the Polish Scouting movement. After Poland regained independence in 1918, *Rota*, in 1927, found itself under consideration for a time as a possible Polish national anthem.

During the German occupation of Poland in World War II, on the eve of 11 November 1939 (Polish Independence Day), in Zielonka, a town at the outskirts of Warsaw, the scouts from the Polish Scouting Association put up posters with the text of the poem on the walls of the buildings. In reprisal, German occupying forces carried out an execution of 9 scouts and other inhabitants of the town. A monument commemorating the crime stands on its site today. In 2008, a film telling that story was made (title: “11 listopada”).

Until 2003, the melody of the anthem was played by the Gdańsk carillon tower and served as the signature theme of the television stations TVP Poznań and TVP Gdańsk.

After 1989 it became the official party anthem of Polish People's Party and in 2010 *Rota* and its authoress Konopnicka were honored by special resolution of Polish Sejm<sup>[1]</sup>

It also served as the anthem of the Polish National-Territorial Region.

## Rota

Polish text:

English translation:

Nie rzucim ziemi, skąd nasz ród.  
Nie damy pogrześć mowy.  
Polski my naród, polski lud,  
Królewski szczep Piastowy.  
Nie damy, by nas zniemczył wróg.

We won't forsake the land we came from,  
We won't let our speech be buried.  
We are the Polish nation, the Polish people,  
From the royal line of Piast.  
We won't let the foe Germanize us.

Tak nam dopomóż Bóg!  
Tak nam dopomóż Bóg!

So help us God!  
So help us God!

Do krwi ostatniej kropli z żył  
Bronić będziemy Ducha,  
Aż się rozpadnie w proch i w pył  
Krzyżacka zawierucha.  
Twierdzą nam będzie każdy próg.

To the last blood drop in our veins  
We will defend our Spirit  
Till into dust and ash shall fall,  
The Teutonic windstorm.  
Every doorsill will be a fortress for us.

Tak nam dopomóż Bóg!  
Tak nam dopomóż Bóg!

So help us God!  
So help us God!

Nie będzie Niemiec pluł nam w twarz  
Ni dzieci nam germanił,  
Orężny wstanie hufiec nasz,  
Duch będzie nam hetmanił.  
Pójdziem, gdy zabrzmie złoty róg.

The German won't spit in our face,  
Nor Germanize our children,  
Our host will arise in arms,  
Holy Spirit will lead the way.  
We'll set out when the golden horn calls.

Tak nam dopomóż Bóg!  
Tak nam dopomóż Bóg!

So help us God!  
So help us God!

Nie damy miana Polski zgnieść  
Nie pójdziem żywo w trumnę.  
Na Polski imię, na jej cześć  
Podnosim czoła dumne,  
Odzyska ziemię dziadów wnuk.

We won't have Poland's name defamed,  
We won't step into a coffin alive.  
In Poland's name, in its worship  
We lift our foreheads proudly,  
A grandson will regain his forefathers' land

Tak nam dopomóż Bóg!  
Tak nam dopomóż Bóg!

So help us God!  
So help us God!