

STICHTING VIKTOR IV



Newsletter no. 4

October, 2010

This extra newsletter is to inform you that our website

www.viktorIV.nl

has been completed with an

English version

Every now and then the board of the foundation would like to share remarkable discoveries with you, as friends of Viktor IV.

POOF AND THE LION FELL DOWN

To our big surprise we were able to trace the Ikon 'ANDREW F. GLUCK & SON IN THE WHITE CIRCLE...', painted by Viktor as a reconciliation with his father in February 1967. While painting this Ikon, Viktor must have thought of something that had been bothering him for many years. (In the left balloon on the Ikon one can read: 'POOF AND THE LION FELL DOWN' and the answer is 'YES PAPA AND NOW I PAINT HIM FOR YOU')



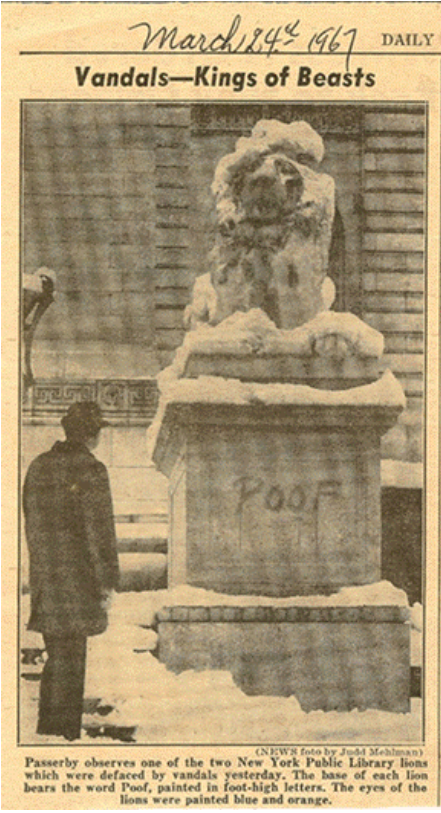


Here follows the story behind the Ikon (the shortened version of the text we found on one of the logbook pages), as well as the stir that Viktor caused in New York after this 'settlement' with his father.

WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG MY FATHER DID OFTEN TELL ME A STORY WHICH INVOLVED HIS TRAVELING TO AFRIKA AND ENDED WITH HIS SHOOTING A LION, 'POOF AND THE LION FELL DOWN'. LITTLE VIKTOR BELIEVED THIS MARVELLOUS STORY. UNTIL ONE SUMMER DAY WHEN MY MOTHER TOLD ME THE TRUTH - NO AFRIKA - NO LION - NO POOF AND AS A RESULT NO FATHER. HE DISAPPEARED (FOR ME) FOR THE NEXT FIFTEEN OR SO YEARS. BUT LIKE ALL GOOD THINGS HE RETURNED AND I FELT A SENSE OF SHAME FOR LOSING HIM THESE MANY YEARS AND THEN I CAME TO PAINT IKONS IN AMSTERDAM AND ON A DAY I DID A WORK IN WHICH A TEXT PROMISED TO PAINT THE LIONS FOR HIM. AND IT HAPPENED THAT MY FATHER WORKED FOR MORE THAN FORTY YEARS DIRECTLY ACROSS THE STREET AND SEVERAL FLOORS UP FROM THE GREAT WHITE STONE LIONS IN FRONT OF THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY ON FIFTH AVENUE. SO THERE WAS NO CHOICE OF LIONS. THOSE LIONS. THE IKON WAS PAINTED IN FEBRUARY AND THE NEXT MONTH I WENT TO NEW YORK FOR TWO DAYS, ON A COLD WINTRY NIGHT WITH POLICE CARS CAST AS MENACE I WALKED FOURTEEN ICY BLOCKS AND CLIMBED THE SNOWY BEASTS AND PAINTED THEM ORANGE AND BRIGHT BRIGHT BLUE...

From browned newspaper cuttings amongst Viktor's archives we learned that the story was not just made up. Viktor's playful vengeance made the headlines of The New York Times ('Public Library's 2 Marble Lions Are Defaced by Vandal's Paint', and 'Statues on Fifth Avenue Are Ringed About the Eyes in Orange and Blue'). The reaction of the Daily Mail was no less outraged, as the 'regal lions, who guarded the main entrance of the New York Public Library', had been New York's most popular statues since 1911.

To judge the handwriting on the newspaper cutting, it must have been Viktor's father who sent the cuttings to his son in Amsterdam. This father, the modest and kind, originally German immigrant Andrew F. Gluck, must have understood as one of the only ones, that it was his son, who had been the offender of this most upsetting deed and also that it was meant exclusively for him. Although .. the other day an American tourist, popping in at the Egidius bookshop at the Haarlemmerstraat (Amsterdam) inquired after Viktor IV. He happened to be an old friend of Viktor's, who in fact had been on the look-out on Fifth Avenue that very same ice-cold night in March 1967. This Wes Andrews from San Francisco, who still remembers the joints he got as a reward, will write down his memories about Viktor to complete our puzzle.



This is one of the surprising aspects of the search for the life and works of Viktor IV. In a next newsletter we will keep you informed of our progress and plans.

Kindest regards on behalf of the board,
 Anne Marie Huibregtse
 Secretariat Viktor IV Foundation

