

# WHITE EAGLE

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## Knighthood Bestowed on Two P.N.A.F. Members

On November 8, 2001 at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington D. C., P.N.A.F. member Richard P. Poremski was presented with the "Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit" of the Republic of Poland in recognition for service to Poland and Polonia, namely, in raising the new National Katyn Memorial in Baltimore's inner Harbor East.

Mr. Poremski is the field representative of the STA-ILA container Royalty Fund and a 37-year member of the ILA Local 333. He also holds the position of Secretary of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation, and is renowned for his active participation in all matters concerning Polonia.

Mr. Poremski is the second member of P.N.A.F. to have received this honor. The first award was presented to Mr. Charles Slomski on April 15, 2000 at the Polish embassy in Washington, D.C. Both awards were presented by the Ambassador of the Polish Republic, Mr. Przemysław Grudziński.

Mr. Slomski is a second generation Polish-American, the son of parents who emigrated from the Austrian section of partitioned Poland. Honorably discharged from the U. S. Air Force, he attended Gannon University and graduated with a B.S. degree in electronic engineering, with secondary degrees in mathematics and philosophy. Following his graduation he accepted a position at the National Security Agency, holding

various technical and management positions involved in state-of-the art technology, all of which was highly classified. He later became chairman of the Research and Development committee interacting with the security branches of all other U.S. governmental agencies and military services.

Mr. Slomski and his family of 5 children currently reside in Pasadena, Maryland. He is also very active in several Polish social and fraternal organizations, including the Polish American Congress, in which he is the President of the Maryland Division. He is the chairman of the scholarship committee and the newsletter editor of the Polish Heritage Association, and a member of the Polish Orphans sponsors in Baltimore with the American Center of Polish Culture. His other affiliations are with Polonian organizations in the Maryland area.

Both recipients are affiliated with the National Katyn Foundation; Mr. Slomski is its Director, and as we said, Mr. Poremski is its Secretary. Both Mr. Slomski and Mr. Poremski are currently formulating a plan to erect a monument in Baltimore to Frédéric Chopin. In addition they are collaborating on translating from Polish to English a book that contains some 90 additional stories of the "other" victims of the Katyn massacre, the wives and children of the Katyn victims. ☪



*Polish Ambassador Przemysław Grudziński (on the left in both photographs) congratulates the awardees. Pan\* Charles J. Slomski is shown in the photograph on the left, and Pan\* Richard Poremski is shown in the photograph on the right. Photos courtesy of Richard Poremski. (\*Pan is the form of address used on the diplomas of knighthood issued by the Polish government).*

## GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Now that the Easter season is behind us, we should all reflect on what has affected our lives in the passing of the tragedy of September 11, 2001. We here at the PNAF have joined all those who have sustained a tragic loss of loved ones in a prayer of condolence, and with what we hope will be some words that will help in easing the pains of despair. What we have done for ourselves alone, dies with us; what we have done for others and the world, remains and is immortal. We can always pray for someone when we don't have the strength to help them in some other way. Sometimes, all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand. We should be glad that God doesn't give us everything we ask for. We should feel better about ourselves



when we make others feel better about themselves. Every prayer to a lost loved one is a musical note to the ear of God, and God just loves good music....

We hope that this issue will be something more than just commemorative, and that it will help strengthen the ties that Poland has made with surrounding countries that have endured the pain and suffering of past atrocities, and of past encounters with the enemies of freedom. We applaud such personages as Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, whose yearly reminders with her Polonaise events bring to the fore the unity of the many countries of Europe which had endured the worst that man could inflict upon his fellow man.

— Leonard J. Suligowski

*"Aby nam się dobrze działo!"*



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# The Tragedy of the Lost Polish Brigades (1802-2002)

by Margaret Odrowąż Sypniewska, B.F.A., P.N.A.

## The Background:

2002 marks the 200th anniversary of Napoleon's mission to restore slavery in Saint Domingue (Haiti). The first Polish Demi-Brigades arrived, for this mission, in 1802, and the second in 1803. Both the 2nd and 3rd Demi-Brigades were brought aboard the French transports at gunpoint. None of them wanted this job. France had already freed the people of Saint Domingue (Haiti) in 1793 and had published their "Declaration of the Rights of Man" in 1774, which freed all slaves in French colonies. The French governor had even allowed Toussaint L'Ouverture to rule their new free state of Saint Domingue, in April 1796. Toussaint had led the slaves' revolt in 1791. Slaves were the majority in Saint Domingue. In 1788, the count was 500,000 slaves to 62,500 colonists. The colony was glad for their freedoms and they said they would rather die than go back to their previous enslavement.

Under General Dombrowski's leadership, the Polish Legion had already proven themselves at Lombardy, Reggio, and Civita Castellana. Napoleon had offered them Lombardy citizenship and the same pay as his French troops. They hoped Napoleon's troops would also help them free Poland, in payment for their services to the French. When Napoleon I came to power in France, he examined the wealth of the colony in Saint Domingue and decided his regime could benefit from it. Napoleon's brother-in-law, General Leclerc, headed his undertaking.

As it turns out their mission in Saint Domingue was a virtual nightmare for the Polish. Out of the 5,280 Poles that were forced to serve the new French "king," 4,000 were dead by 1803. Of the survivors, only 15 officers and 150 men returned to Europe. The others were killed in action, died of yellow fever, or were sent to English prison hulks. Those who could not afford to pay for passage off the island stayed in a village high in the mountains in Canton de Plateau (now called Casales).

It is generally thought that the Poles sympathized with the plight of the citi-

zens of Saint Domingue (Haiti). Dessalines took over leadership after 1802 when François Dominique Toussaint L'Ouverture was captured and imprisoned in France. Toussaint died, in France, in 1803. Jean Jacques Dessalines (1758-1806), Alexandre Petion, and King Henri Christophe ruled after his death.

Dessalines had been Toussaint's right-hand man in the original revolt. He ordered the killing of all French, but Dessalines spared the Poles, Germans, Swiss, and foreign women married to Haitians. Dessalines honored the Poles because they were sympathetic to Saint Domingue's plight. It is thought that those Poles were established at Casales because of its cooler climate and remoteness.

Vicomte Thouvenet, commander of the Napoleonic Contingent in the West Indies, wrote to the commissioner for naval and colonial affairs on March 10, 1803:

General Brunet and the platoon commanders complain incessantly about the Poles' lack of courage. These lumpish and apathetic men, whose ways and language are completely different to our own, having been transported a vast distance from their homeland, seem, to have lost all their energy; and they are terrified at the idea of having to fight a war of the kind about which they know nothing. It is therefore impossible to deploy them except as sentinels and it would be extremely dangerous to rely upon them in the future" (Orizio. *Lost Tribes*, 134).

Of course, we know that the Poles were utilized, after this situation, by the French. The Poles served with distinction in Spain, in 1808; in Russia in 1813; in Reichenbach;

in Paris, in 1815; at Dresden, in 1813; at Elba; at Waterloo; at Samosierra, in 1809; at Madrid; and in France, in 1814. These same battles were led by General Baron Dezdery, *Chef* [Chief/Major] Vincent Dobieski, *Chef* Jankowski, Lt. Baron Paul Jermanowski, Lt. Col. Koziatulski, General Count Vincent Corvin, and General Count Josef Zaluski (to name a few).

## Haiti Today

Casales is located near Cabaret (formerly Duvalierville in the time of "Papa and Baby Doc" Duvalier). In 1986, Duvalierville was sacked by an angry mob after "Baby Doc" and his family fled to France for political asylum. After the Duvaliers left, the town was restored to its original name of "Cabaret." From Cabaret you can find your way to Casales via a steep dirt road passing farms and small sugarcane plantations. Streams cross the road at regular intervals and there are huge potholes. Most Haitians navigate this route on foot with their donkeys or goats.

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Cooper from Chicago brought 36 of their friends including: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kotaba, Mr. Krzysztof Kurczaba and Ms. Jolanta Lorente, Dr. and Mrs. Henryk Roztoczynski, Dr. Anna Szpindor-Watson and Mr. John Watson, Miss Agnieszka Zakreta; from Ohio, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Partyka, Mr. Andrzej Pawlikowski and the Szalek family from San Francisco; from Washington, D.C., Drs. Christopher and Maria Michejda, Mr. and Mrs. Ethan Burke; Professor Marek Chodakiewicz from

Virginia, Ms. Anna and Katarzyna Karkowska from New York; from Miami, the Honorable and Mrs. Maurice Ferre; and representatives of the Greek community, Dr. and Mrs. Jerzy Kyparisis, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Prevolis Mr. and Mrs. Peter Spillis, Mr. and Mrs. John Scurtis and many more.

This elegant and prestigious Ball honoring Polish-Greek relations was an unforgettable evening of exquisite company, delicious food, and delightful entertainment and dancing. ☺

## Postscript: A Very Special Brunch with Music and Dancing

A Sunday brunch was held on February 10th, 2002 in the Starlight Room. This was another lovely event with 200 people attending. The guests could not only enjoy the delicious food but also experience a rich artistic program.

The Polish American Dance Company performed Krakowiak. Next, Mr. Ares Chadzinikolau performed on the piano his own compositions. In his music he incorporates the melodies of both Poland and Greece, thus giving his music a new dimension. He also improvised his impressions of Miami. This mini-recital of Ares, who is also a poet, a writer and a painter, was received with a standing ovation. Afterwards the

Karkowska Sisters Duo, with Anna playing violin and Katarzyna the piano, gave a performance featuring music of Chopin and Wieniawski and interjecting bits of information about the composers, their work and lives. This was a great recital, applauded by all. Finally Eleni sang a couple of songs, of which the sunny yet often reflective mood was very well suited for the occasion. After that the Frank Hubbell orchestra played for dancing.

The brunch was both educational and enjoyable. It was a delightful combination of fun, entertainment, music and dancing. ☺

## Dues and Donations 2002

*As of 27 March 2002. Dues and donations received after that date will appear in the Fall/Winter edition.*

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I am currently researching how this community might be helped. Unfortunately, one does not know if the money reaches these people, especially when the medium income of the Haitian people is less than \$200.00 a year. Some cabbies will try to get this amount (\$200) for the trip to Casales according to author Riccardo Orizio. Not too many tourists stop in Haiti anymore, there are no more hotels and exclusive resorts there today. The entire country has been lost to the many dictators and unscrupulous leaders who seem to have their own agendas. France claimed 1/3 of the island, of Hispaniola, in 1687, and named it "Saint Domingue." For a time this was a buccaneer's paradise. Which made it unsafe for merchants. The island of Hispaniola was a colonial settlement, on the south, while the rest of the island was open to buccaneers and non-Spanish settlers. From 1804-1826, no foreign nation recognized Haiti's existence. This was because Haiti's Constitution did NOT allow whites to own property there. No nation would sponsor their recovery. Without the capital and trade with other nations, Haiti slumped into poverty.

As a side note, my husband and I visited both Port-au-Prince, Haiti; and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; on the island of Hispaniola, in the early days

of our marriage. The atmosphere was that of a pot about to boil. People carry on, but they still harbor the seeds of revolution. Who could blame them? There is no doubt that Haiti is the poorest of the Third World nations. What a shame that Haiti went from the richest colony to the poorest in 200 years. I remember well the mud-slides in Port-Au-Prince, the richer Petionville, the intense heat, and the poverty. Had we known at the time, we might have tried to pay our respects to the people of Casales. However, then this story was a well-kept secret that most books neglected to tell.

I found *Lost Tribes: The End of Privilege and the Last Colonists in Sri Lanka, Jamaica, Brazil, Haiti, Namibia, and Guadeloupe* very interesting reading! Haiti's only real landmarks today are San Souci Palace and its accompanying fortress high in the mountains near Cap-Haitien, built by Henri Christoph.

In contrast, the Dominican Republic has re-built much of their old Spanish town and historical buildings, such as the Alcazar of Diego Columbus, Christopher's son, who was governor there. This old Spanish city was re-energized right after their revolt in the late 1960's, when we visited. I still have slides of these places. Haiti used to be one of the ports of call for many cruises. I have an exquisite mahogany carving from one of Haiti's galleries, an oil painting and a poignant photograph of "Papa Doc" Du-

valier's home with evil storm clouds overhead.

In Casales, Haiti, a small group of forgotten people, of Polish-Creole descent, still wait for a brighter new millennium.

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## Dues and Donations

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chised by Catherine II; those who remained landlords lost their lands (and the privileges that went with ownership) when the Russian Empire emancipated the peasants, giving the former landlords a monetary compensation; and Russification gradually increased in the *Kresy*.

As a population long accustomed to travel, the *szlachta* frequently traveled all over the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth whenever it suited their fancy, as opposed to the true peasantry, who had little experience in travel of any kind. It was only natural that these warrior gentry from the *Kresy* would be attracted to the idea of migrating to America or elsewhere. From the above, we can conclude that the overwhelming majority of Polish-Americans can lay claim to gentry status—not by means of any sovereign conferring the status of aristocrats onto them, but by operation of the immutable process of derivation. Where the ancestor belonged to the knightly caste, the child or grandchild can also lay claim to this birthright. It matters naught that in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, such a large percentage of the ethnic Poles belonged, albeit sometimes only dimly, to the *szlachta* caste.

Using titles, to pick up the second item, needs to take into account that few of the *szlachta* held such titles as Baron, Count, Duke or Prince. With few exceptions, titles were not awarded by the Polish King, and certainly not by the *szlachta* estate. They prized their theoretical equality in their warrior caste too much to permit that. Nevertheless, many Poles acquired titles, mainly from foreign Kings or the Holy Roman Empire. Contrary to generally accepted mythology, not law, many feel that in a democracy we should not speak of titles, as somehow being repugnant in a democracy, or barred by the Constitution of the United States. The same social forces that have coerced Polish immigrants from retaining their former noble status works with even greater vengeance against retention of titles granted perhaps centuries ago to one's ancestors.

Let us examine the U. S. Constitution. Its clause touching on foreign titles clearly does not apply to the use or display of titles granted to one's great-grandparent.

Article I, section 9, Clause 8 reads as follows:

*"No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States; and no person holding any office of profit or trust under them, shall, without consent of the Congress, accept any present, emolument, office or title of any kind whatsoever, from any King, Prince or Foreign state".*

Notice two things. First, the bar applies only to persons holding "any office of profit or trust" under the United States. Next, the prohibition is "against the United States" granting any title. Of course, foreign entities are not subject to our Constitution, nor are grants of nobility three, four, five or six hundred years old. Congress even retained a loophole: "Congress may give its approval if it sees fit." In my own case, the Government of Mexico offered to confer the Order of the Aztec Eagle upon me (for humane treat-

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***Some rather simple-minded folk operate under the misconception that living in a democracy means that both noble status and any titles held by one's ancestors are forbidden.***

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ment of Mexican aliens in deportation proceedings). I received approval not from the Congress directly, but from the U.S. Attorney General, under power delegated to him. I presume that makes me a Knight in Mexico....

As for the use of titles by Polish-Americans, there certainly can be no complaint against mention of titles previously held by one's honorable ancestors. Even Winston Churchill saw fit to display his descent from the Duke of Marlboro. A person becoming a naturalized U. S. citizen may be barred from using even an historical/sentimental title, because the naturalization oath includes a disclaimer of foreign titles. Question 14, of part 7 of the form N-400 application for citizenship, asks the following: "Were you born with, or have you acquired in the same way, any title or order of nobility in any foreign state?"

The purpose of question 14 of part 7 of this form is designed to trigger Section 337 of the Immigration & Nationality Law, which directs any person seeking naturalization to renounce any title or "order of nobility," in open court, and his/her renunciation must be made a part of the record of the court. It is not exactly clear what the reference to an "Order of Nobility" pertains to. Does it mean "membership" in the nobility of a foreign state? Or is it limited to various grants of titles, or even grants of foreign awards such as the Order of the Garter, or Order of the Bath, both in Britain? British custom, and apparently law or customary law, is for any foreigner being naturalized to give up any "right or privilege" attached to any foreign title he may have, but did/does not require total abandonment of the title, a rather sensible scheme, and one which tracks with the status of a native-born American citizen of Polish ancestry whose forebears held the ordinary titles.

Many members of the *szlachta* held non-hereditary titles, again as in Britain, such as (Royal) Cupbearer, Master of the hunt, Keeper of the Pantry, etc. These were not passed along to descendants, but I am sure that any indication that a particular ancestor held an office like "Royal Secretary" (for example, two of my tribal Jakubowski ancestors did) certainly is free to mention such fact at an appropriate moment.

As a Post Scriptum, it can be shown that when members of the extended "Topor"-Jakubowski tribe received formal recognition of their (pre-existing) right to membership in the knightly class, the authorities (chiefly Russians and tame Poles after the ill-fated Uprising of 1831) clearly stated in their patents of nobility that the status was *dziedziczny* (hereditary). There are two 19th century Jakubowski patents that prove this point. One relates to Leon Jakubowski, of the clan "Topor," 1844, and Rudolph Lambert Jakubowski as recently as 1860. If the Russian occupiers, ruling Poland with the bayonet, deemed it appropriate to accede to Polish claims to knighthood; there would seem no conceivable policy here in the United States, a free democratic country that respect the rights of all citizens. ☺



# Legend of the Sarykoń Coat of Arms

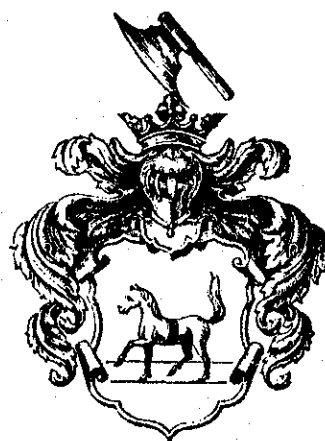
The following was prepared from Volume VIII, pp. 503-504, of the classic heraldic reference *Herbarz Polski* (by Kasper Niesiecki, S. J., Lipsk [Leipzig] edition, 1839-1846) by Leonard J. Suligowski, 218A North Henry, Brooklyn, NY 11222-3608. For each coat of arms the blazon or verbal description of the arms below is first given in the authentic heraldic style, followed by a translation from the Polish description by Niesiecki. The right and left sides of a shield are identified from the standpoint of the bearer, i. e., the one holding the shield. His right would be your left and vice versa. The tinctures (colors) in heraldry are as follows: azure = blue; gules = red; sable = black; or = gold; argent = silver; vert = green. In heraldry all charges (pictures) on a shield are assumed to be facing dexter (right side) unless otherwise specified. In Polish heraldry all animals or birds are assumed to be in their natural coloring unless otherwise specified.

**Blazon:** *Gules*, a horse passant *argent* girthed with a band *sable*, hooved *or*. For a crest, out of a crest coronet, a battle ax in bend *argent*. Manteling, *Gules*, doubled *Argent*.

There is a silver horse with gold hooves in a red field, with a wide black band about its girth; his tail is turned up-right, and his left foreleg and right hind leg are raised a little above the ground, as if walking. On the crowned helmet the lower end of a battle-ax is set into the crown as if plunged into it. This is how the shield was described by the authors Bielski, p. 249; Paprocki in his work *O herbach* [Of clan shields], p. 52; and Okolski (Volume 3, p. 69).

These authors all agree with the historian Długosz on the origins of this shield. There were three brothers named Sędziwój, Nawój, and Żegota, of the clan Topór. Żegota had spent a considerable amount of time in foreign lands and with no small profit. Upon returning to his homeland he found that his brothers had divided the family inheritance between themselves, and had begun styling themselves *hrabiowie z Sieciechowice* (the Counts of Sieciechowice). When he greeted them, the brothers did not know him; when he brought up their ties of blood, name, and brotherhood, they did not want him as their brother. As for their father's fortune, they wouldn't even talk about that.

Unacknowledged and wholly rejected by his brothers, he turned to the



**STARYKOŃ HERB**

King of Poland, submitting clear proof of his birth. So that he would no longer have to share the same arms with those who had rejected him, he received from the king a shield modified from that of Topór. This shield had the white horse he rode during his journeys to those foreign lands, and the battle-ax (*topór*) from the original arms was raised to the crest for his new shield, to show that he was born in the house of the Topórs. This is confirmed by a letter of King Kazimierz the Great dated 1366, cited in Paprocki's *O herbach*, p. 55, where it states:

*Quod omnes Bipenni et antiqui Equi, essent et processissent de uno avo, et de una progenie, et quod haberent ab antiquo unum jus omnes.* ("That all Topórs and Sarykońs are and have descended from

one ancestor and from one tribe, and that since ancient times they have all had one law.") [*Latin Bipenni means literally "double-bladed axes," i. e., Polish topór, and Latin antiqui Equi means "old horses," i. e., Polish Sarykoń*].

The clan is called Sarykoń much as Topór is called Starza by its clan members; Żegota, the count of Sieciechowice, is called *Zaprzaniec* ("renegade, turncoat"), that is, one repudiated by his brothers. As to when this change actually is supposed to have taken place, no one has written on this. Suffice it to say that it had happened by 1080, because Paprocki mentions Żegota Zaprzaniec from grants to monasteries.

Okolski (Volume 3, page 78) says that in Silesia the Emberks use the arms of Sarykoń, but in a different form; he was mistaken, however, because he changed a vixen into a horse. Paprocki writes explicitly in his work *Stromata* of this clan shield, where he says that the vixen should not be a horse, and I spoke of this in regard to Paprocki in Volume IV, page 7.

Petrasantia in chapter 54 of *de tesser. Gentilit.* says that in Silesia the Zybulkas use the seal of Sarykoń, but I do not know whether he meant the Cybulkas. Kromer says of one of the Cybulkas that he was a legate from Witold (i. e., the Lithuanian prince Vytautas), but it seems to me that he belonged to the clan Ostrzew. ☞

## Bearers of these Arms

Bochnar  
Bystrzanowski  
Czartoryski

Grodecki  
Maj  
Nahojewski

Nawojewski  
Pisarzewski  
Polanowski

Siemuszewski  
Wielogłowski  
Wielopolski

Wroniecki  
Żarski

For more on heraldry, you can visit the PNAF site at: <http://www.angelfire.com/mn3/pnaf/index.html>

## Recent acquisitions to the Heraldic Library

*Dizionario Araldico* [Italian Heraldic Dictionary], P.G. Camaniani  
*Dizionario Storico-Blazonico* [Italian Fam Histories and Shield Descriptions], 3 volumes, G. B. Di Crollanza  
*Genealogie rodów utytułowanych w Polsce* [Genealogy of Titled Families], (vol. 1), T. Lenczewski  
*Herbarz Mazowiecki* [Mazovian Armorial], 3 vol., J. Lempicki  
*Herbarz Miast Polskich* [Armorial of Polish cities], 1994, A. Piewako/J. Wanag.  
*Herby Miast Polskich* [Armorial of Polish cities], 1960, M. Gumowski

*Heroldia Królestwo Polskiego, 1831-1861* [Herald's College in the Russian Sector of Partitioned Poland], M. Osiecka  
*Nobilitacje i herby w Galicja w latach 1773-1794* [Nobility and Clan Shields in Galicia from 1773 to 1794], S. Gorzyński  
*Rodziny polskie pochodzenia cudzoziemskiego osiadłe w Warszawie i okolicach* [Polish families from other countries settling in Warsaw and local environs], S. Łoza  
*Schlesisches Wappenbuch* [Silesian Book of Clan shields], (1847), L. Dorst

*Schlesisches Wappenbuch*, (1984), C. and J. Scharffenberg  
*Słownik etymologiczny języka polskiego* [Etymological Dictionary of the Polish language], A. Brückner.  
*Spis Szlachecki Królestwa z dodaniem krótkiej informacji* [Nobility name list in the Kingdom, with additional brief information], (1851)  
*Spis Szlachty Królestwa Polskiego* [Nobility list of the Polish Kingdom] (Private printing)  
*Die Wappen des Adels in Pommern und Medlenburg* [Nobility Shields in Pomerania and Medlenburg], Siebmacher

\* \* \*

## Book donations to the PNA(F) Archives by Members

Donated by Ms. **Irena Uderska**, London, England:

*The Stewarts' Lost Secrets (Missing heirs of Bonnie Prince Charlie)*, P. Pininski

*Blood Royal! (From the time of Alexander the Great to Queen Elizabeth II)*, Charles Mosley.

Donated by Ms. **Christina Polanski de Swida**, New Jersey:

*Castles in the U.K.; Ireland; France; Netherlands; Germany; Austria; Scandanavia and Spain*, Molly Moynahan

*Britain's Royal family in the 20th Century (from King Edward VII to*

*Queen Elizabeth II)*, by Donald Edgar.

Donated by **Joseph Dressel**, Chicago, Illinois, USA:

*A treatise of the Dressel Family Genealogy, 1060-2001.* ☞

## Poezja Polska

*Autor, W. P. Barbara Bromont-Sławińska, Poeta Lauretka, P.N.A.F.*

"PIRAMIDA WIARY" 1980 – 2003

Piramida wiary z kamienia wolności  
 Szeptem warg spragnionych człowieka biednego  
 Ciebie kryje Polsko, modlitwa swobody  
 Płaszcz Częstochowski z Tronu Papieskiego.

Ślij słowa w przestworza – by je wiatry rwały  
 Prosto, prościuteńko wichura rozsądku,  
 I niosły do Boga modlitwę narodu  
 Który pragnie tylko zwykłego porządku.

Rozpłacz ludziom usta – słuchaj jak spowiedzi  
 Gremialnej, powszechnej, wprost posoborowej.  
 Wznos nowe ołtarze... tam gdzie duch narodu  
 Chce zobaczyć Polskę, ale w szacie nowej.

Nowej, sprawiedliwej, gdzie, rękojeść bita –  
 Nie szafirow diamentem...ale wprost zadaniem.

Tobie nasza Pani – boś RZECZPOSPOLITA  
 Zdejmujemy z twarzy zakuty kaganiec!

Zbudowali szafot – już Cię naznaczyli...  
 Gdzieś na mapie świata chcą mówić za Ciebie.  
 Ty wiesz żeś wybranką – szczególnie w tej chwili,  
 Przy Tobie rolnik stanął jak Pan w niebie.

Stanął za kratami – bo metal szlachetny  
 Jednym serca biciem postulat szykuje....  
 Europa chce wiary – chleba powszedniego  
 Wolności, rozsądku ołtarze buduje.

I stawia je Tobie, Ojciec Święty Panie,  
 Jak kule u nogi z której Tyś szczęśliwy  
 Gdzie słowo jest szpada, a wiatr jest powstańcem,  
 Cały naród wznosi...kielich dokąd żywy. ☞



# The Słownik Nazwisk is Online

by William F. "Fred" Hoffman, e-mail: [WFHoffman@prodigy.net](mailto:WFHoffman@prodigy.net)

[This is a revised version of an article reprinted, with permission, from the August 2002 edition of Gen Dobry!, the free e-zine of PolishRoots™ at <http://www.PolishRoots.org>.]

If you've ever read my book on Polish surnames, or any of my online notes on the subject, you've seen me refer to the *Słownik nazwisk współcześnie w Polsce używanych*, literally "Dictionary of Surnames Currently Used in Poland." This work, edited by Kazimierz Rymut, is of great value for those deeply interested in Polish names, because it was the first comprehensive compilation of surnames used by citizens of Poland. It was compiled from a 1990 database of a Polish government agency, with data on about 94% of the population of Poland as of that year. It gave a total of all Poles by each name, along with a breakdown of where they lived by province.

So if you want to know what names were borne by Poles, and where those names were most common, this 10-volume set tells you. It runs over 6,000 pages and covers over 800,000 entries. This is not exactly light reading — but for someone seriously interested in Polish research, it definitely has its uses.

When I've cited data from this work, people have often asked "Where can I get hold of this book?" They usually lost interest once I told them it was 10 volumes, in Polish, cost \$200, and could only be bought from the publisher in Poland, the Instytut Języka Polskiego PAN in Krakow. Still, some organizations, and some intrepid individuals, shelled out the money and bought copies.

Well, this 10-volume set has recently been put online as a searchable database by the Dom Polonii in Pułtusk. If you want to consult this source for yourself, go to this page: <http://www.herby.com.pl/herby/indexslo.html>.

## Uh, OK, I've Got It – What Is It?

When I learned that this searchable database was online, I chuckled as I thought, "Oh, boy, wait till people start trying to use this!" It didn't take long—soon the Polish mailing lists were full of

people saying "How do I use this?" and "What do all these numbers mean?" and "How can I get addresses for the people with this name?"

These are all legitimate questions, and I'm going to talk a little about each of them. I want people to use this site (it means they won't be bothering me).

## How Do I Use This?

First get online and go to that address, <http://www.herby.com.pl/herby/indexslo.html>. Find the box right above the line reading "Proszę wprowadzić nazwisko." Enter the name you're looking for in the box and click the button that says "Szukaj." Easy, right?

Sometimes, yes. But the problem is, **this database uses proper Polish spelling.** If a Polish name includes one of those characters used in Polish but not in English (*ą, ć, ę, ł, ń, ó, ś, ź, or ż*), you must include that character. A search for *Gorzyński* will not find *Gorzyński*. A search for *Jastrzębski* tells you there were 126 Polish citizens by that name as of 1990; a search for the standard spelling, *Jastrzebski*, tells you there were 19,156! Clearly, correct spellings matter!

Are you out of luck if you don't know how to use the Polish characters? Not at all. You can, for instance, use the wild card characters \* and ?. The symbol \* substitutes for any letters and any number of letters; the ? substitutes for any one letter. So a search for *Gorzy\** will bring up all names beginning *Gorzy-*. Or a search for *Zieli?ski* will bring up *Zieliński* (as well as *Zielitski* and *Zielizski*, as well as *Zielinski* without the accent — probably all misspellings made when clerks keyed in the original data).

I personally recommend sidestepping the Polish characters by using the wild cards \* and ?—it's just easier.

## What Do All These Numbers Mean?

The data that comes up gives the total number of Polish citizens bearing the name in question as of 1990, followed by a breakdown of where they lived by province (under "Rozmieszczenie"). Abbreviations are used for the provinces.

To see what those abbreviations stand for, from the search page, click on the place below the search box that says "Tutaj znajdują się objaśnienia skrótów." It brings up a little box with the abbreviations. It includes the instruction "Zobacz mapę," which means "See the map." Clicking on that will bring up a map of Poland with the abbreviations. (Clicking on "Zamknij mapę" closes the map.)

Note that in the breakdown by province, the number for Wa, Warsaw, comes first—unless no one by the surname in question lived in Warsaw province. Any province with no inhabitants by the name in question is simply omitted.

Note also that except for Wa, Warsaw, the abbreviations are in alphabetical order by the **names of the towns**: Lu, Lublin, should come before Ło, Łomża, because plain L precedes Ł. In turn, Ło, Łomża, should come before Łd, Łódź, because plain o precedes ó. Similarly, Tb, Tarnobrzeg, should precede Ta, Tarnów (again, plain o before ó).

Often you can ignore the diacritical marks in the abbreviations, but they are crucial in distinguishing Pl, Piła, from Pl, Płock.

## A Sample Name: Jaworski

So, let's say you key in *Jaworski* and click on "Szukaj." Search. You get this:

**Jaworski:** 44104. Wa:4814, BP:217, Bs:171, BB:826, By:1276, Ch:290, Ci:699, Cz:622, El:767, Gd:1220, Go:652, JG:917, Kl:548, Ka:2709, Ki:1847, Kn:818, Ko:634, Kr:1232, Ks:278, Lg:737, Ls:198, Lu:1228, Ło:71, Łd:1543, NS:228, Ol:779, Op:697, Os:479, Pl:707, Pt:336, Pi:839, Po:1090, Pr:138, Ra:2267, Rz:400, Sd:818, Sr:611, Sk:748, Sl:461, Su:173, Sz:1196, Tb:838, Ta:482, To:1587, Wb:832, Wl:853, Wr:1867, Za:470, ZG:894

This means there were a total of 44,104 Polish citizens named *Jaworski* as of 1990 (but since 6% of the population was not included, there were surely more). The data after that is a breakdown of where those *Jaworskis* lived by province. What more is there to say?

Well, from my experience, there are a few comments in order. For one thing, you may ask—you **should** ask—what do the numbers mean, and where did they come from?

They indicate the number of Polish citizens who bore that particular surname as of 1990, according to the database maintained by the Rządowe Centrum Informacyjne PESEL, the PESEL Government Information Center. PESEL is a Polish government agency that assigns every citizen an identification number—in practical terms, it's somewhat comparable to the Social Security number for U. S. citizens.

OK, so does this mean 4,814 Poles named Jaworski lived in Warsaw? No! It means that many Jaworskis lived in the **province** of Warsaw. People often miss this point. The figures for provinces include all the towns and villages in that province, not just the main city which served as its administrative center. We have no access to data on who lived in what town or village—just a total for the province in question.

Also, the provinces given were the ones in force when the data was collected in 1990—the 49 provinces that existed under the setup from 1975 to 1998. All that changed in 1999. If you want to figure out how those provinces correspond to the current ones, you need to visit one of the sites online that compare them. Here are two good ones:

[http://www.polishroots.com/geo\\_maps.htm](http://www.polishroots.com/geo_maps.htm)

<http://www.rootsworld.com/~polwgv/49provs.html>

Another point: do the numbers for Jaworski include Jaworska? Yes, they do. For surnames ending in *-ski/-ska*, *-cki/-cka*, and *-zki/-zka*, you can safely assume that the figure for the standard masculine form includes the feminine form as well. Thus Grabowski includes Grabowska, Zawadzki includes Zawadzka, Nowacki includes Nowacka, and so on.

(But I think they dropped the ball on some of the less common adjectival names, such as those ending in *-y* and *-a*. For instance, they list Gumienna borne by 756 Poles, and Gumienny by 865. It seems to me they should have combined them into one entry, since *Gumienna* is

just the feminine form of *Gumienny*. With names ending in *-y* and *-a*, therefore, keep your eyes open!)

### How Can I Get Addresses?

OK, so now you know what you've got. Now the big question: how do you get addresses?

The short answer is, you don't. The long answer is, you get them the same way you would if this database had never been put online: by research. Polish privacy laws do a pretty good job of keeping names and addresses, well, private.

In most cases, the question doesn't arise anyway. One of the things you quickly learn from looking at this data is that the vast majority of Polish surnames are not concentrated in any one place. This data usually doesn't tell you a thing about where your family came from. Surnames developed centuries ago, and with all that's happened since then, there's been plenty of time for people to move around. Even surnames that clearly refer to a specific, unique place name usually turn out to be scattered all over Poland.

And besides, if your name is Jaworski and you think your ancestors came from Warsaw, what good does it do you? You've got 4,814 Jaworskis in Warsaw province as of 1990. Even if you had their addresses, are you going to write them all? I don't think so.

Still, having said all this, I must admit sometimes this data **does** indicate a concentration in one area. In such a case it would be great to have some way of getting an address. The hard way—the way you'll usually have to do it—is to dig and dig till you trace your ancestors back to a specific area, then try to make contact with a priest or other person in that area who'll help you get addresses.

Is there ever a short cut? Sometimes. If you find a name is highly concentrated in one area, or you know the exact area they came from, you have a better shot at getting addresses than if you just say, "Duh, my ancestors came from Poland."

One source that might be worth a look was mentioned in the July 2000 issue of the *Polish-American Journal*. In that issue the PAJ Answerman suggested one can find individuals or families "by contacting the one office in Poland that has on file the addresses of all people

currently living in Poland: Centralne Biuro Adresowe, ul. Kazimierzowska 60, 02-543 Warsaw, POLAND."

Now I have no idea whether this works or not, and it presumably would be no help if a name is scattered all over the country. But in instances where a name is highly concentrated in one area, I like to pass this info along. If this Central Address Office does provide you with addresses for folks with your ancestral name in your ancestral area, chances are decent those addresses belong to relatives. Writing them is worth a try.

Also possibly worth a try is the Polish telephone directory online at this site:

[http://tel.portal.pl/asp/szukaj\\_a.asp](http://tel.portal.pl/asp/szukaj_a.asp)

The problem with this is, you have to specify a surname and a location. So it's not much good for fishing around if you have just a name or a place, but not both. Please notice, that this site also demands correct spellings with Polish letters. And it won't let you use wildcards.

So we're back to how you input Polish letters—and that's a whole other subject in itself! I can't tackle that in this issue. Besides, I already discussed it in a previous issue of *Gen Dobry!*, Volume II, number 6, "Why Can't I Key In Polish Letters?" If you want to read it, go here: [http://polishroots.org/gendobry/GenDobry\\_vol2\\_no6.htm](http://polishroots.org/gendobry/GenDobry_vol2_no6.htm).

### Conclusion

To sum up, it's good news that this data is now available online. But you should temper your enthusiasm: you may find it's not as easy to use as you'd think. And even if you find what you're looking for, it may not tell you what you hoped it would.

It's like any other source of potentially useful info. If you want to find a prince, you've gotta kiss a lot of frogs; and if you want to find your roots, you've gotta dig a lot of holes. This online database is one more place to dig where you **might** hit paydirt. Or you may just end up kissing a frog. Pucker up and try to enjoy it!

[To see the original online version, complete with links you can click, go to: [http://polishroots.org/gendobry/GenDobry\\_vol3\\_no8.htm](http://polishroots.org/gendobry/GenDobry_vol3_no8.htm).]

The Germans were nervous about going into the vast tracts of woodland, which Zamojski knew like the back of his hand, and he was therefore able to conceal people and arms on a large scale. Over the next five years he hid entire underground units with their equipment. Also hidden were a string of escaped Allied prisoners and airmen who had been shot down, whom he taught Polish and German while papers were prepared for their onward escape. He was also able to hijack a large number of transports for these unfortunates, and to hide large numbers of those most at risk, particularly Jewish children, in the depths of the forest.

In the summer of 1944, as the area was "liberated" by the Red Army, Zamojski, who had reached the rank of Colonel in the underground army, was arrested by the NKVD. He was beaten and thrown into jail in Kielce, where he languished for a year before being released, without charge. Everything he owned had been confiscated and he had to take menial jobs to keep himself and his family alive. In 1949 he was arrested once more and brought to Warsaw, where he was brutally tortured before being sentenced to a term of 25 years for "collaboration with the Nazis" and "espionage for the West." As a political prisoner he

was released in 1956, and the "thaw" which followed Stalin's death.

Zamojski was not just a remarkable individual, his trials epitomized what had befallen Poland's aristocracy during the long second World war, and showed how nobly and patriotically they faced up to the challenge. It was above all for this that he was honored with the Order of the White Eagle reintroduced by president Lech Wałęsa, and was among the first group to be dubbed with the honor.

Jan Zamojski, Polish landowner, patriot and politician, died June 29, 2002.

[From the Times Newspapers Ltd. U.K.]

## TEXT OF P.N.A.F.'s LETTER TO THE EDITOR

October 15, 2002

New York Daily News  
450 W. 33rd St.  
New York N.Y. 10001

Att: Mr. E. Cosner, Editor-in-Chief  
Mr. Richard Schwartz/Editorial Page  
Editor

Re: Discrimination of the Polish N.Y.  
Community/Pułaski Day Parade

Dear Editors,

The following letter constitutes a matter of alarming concern. A concern that, by virtue of its nature, demands immediate attention and remedy. It seems that the *Daily News* (and all the other N.Y.C. newspapers) had found the free time, page space and photo coverage of the following events:

- The "sham" Olympic Parade (documentary)
- Columbus Day Parade (Italian/Americans)
- Latino Day Parade (Spanish/Americans)
- Haitian Day Parade (Haitian/Americans)
- St. Patrick's Day Parade (Irish/Americans)
- Von Steuben Day Parade (German/Americans), *et al.*

Yet, remarkably, you found absolutely no time, space, or personnel to cover and provide equal coverage in

honor of one of the true heroes of the American Revolutionary war, General Casimir Pułaski, and the great parade dedicated to his memory, which is celebrated and covered by other states and communities and "their" respective media and newspapers.

For your information, General Pułaski is also known as the "Father of American Cavalry"... Everything we've come to know in America regarding equestrian skills, riding, cavalry tactics and dressage was handed down from Gen. Pułaski, from the Polish style of horsemanship. So why, I ask, does the newspaper (and TV) media, continually fail to appropriately cover year after year the due honor and respect for all Polonia through the Pułaski Day Parade? Why must the Polish American populace be forced to endure this blatant discrimination on a regular basis? How can you in all good conscience deliberately ignore the Pol-Am populace? This is a shameful slap in the face of a good working-class people from areas throughout the United States.

Your inconsiderate disregard of the 2002 Pułaski parade coverage just happened to miss an historical premier, which had to be postponed from last years parade due to the tragic events of Sept. 11th, to wit: for the first time in the 65 year history of the Pułaski Parade, a representation of the famous 16th/17th century cavalry warriors, The Polish Winged Hussars, was portrayed! Not

only in New York, but in any Pułaski Parade anywhere in the U.S. history ever!! The awestruck crowds lining the streets were able to see for the first time a historical figure that they had only read about as children, and showed their pride and honor by cheering most enthusiastically. History, coming alive before them ... This was a very significant event to see: The Winged Hussars, under Polish King John III Sobieski, were largely responsible for winning the battle of Vienna by routing the Ottoman/Turkish forces in 1683 and saving Christianity in all of Europe.

This parade portrayal was a new chapter in cultural and historical pride in Polish-American history; yet you and all the other media chose to look the other way and devote your energies to everything else but the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

How can you even look at yourselves in the mirror each day after such a slight?

This type of oversight of the N.Y. Polish Community demands immediate redress, and must never be allowed to happen in the future. If discrimination is supposed to be illegal, then the *Daily News* is unquestionably GUILTY in this regard!!!

With umbrage,

Dr. Roger Chylinski-Polubinski  
President  
Polish Nobility Association Foundation

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- Latino Day Parade (Spanish/Americans)
- Haitian Day Parade (Haitian/Americans)
- St. Patrick's Day Parade (Irish/Americans)
- Von Steuben Day Parade (German/Americans), *et al.*

Yet, remarkably, you found absolutely no time, space, or personnel to cover and provide equal coverage in

honor of one of the true heroes of the American Revolutionary war, General Casimir Pułaski, and the great parade dedicated to his memory, which is celebrated and covered by other states and communities and "their" respective media and newspapers.

For your information, General Pułaski is also known as the "Father of American Cavalry"... Everything we've come to know in America regarding equestrian skills, riding, cavalry tactics and dressage was handed down from Gen. Pułaski, from the Polish style of horsemanship. So why, I ask, does the newspaper (and TV) media, continually fail to appropriately cover year after year the due honor and respect for all Polonia through the Pułaski Day Parade? Why must the Polish American populace be forced to endure this blatant discrimination on a regular basis? How can you in all good conscience deliberately ignore the Pol-Am populace? This is a shameful slap in the face of a good working-class people from areas throughout the United States.

Your inconsiderate disregard of the 2002 Pułaski parade coverage just happened to miss an historical premier, which had to be postponed from last years parade due to the tragic events of Sept. 11th, to wit: for the first time in the 65 year history of the Pułaski Parade, a representation of the famous 16th/17th century cavalry warriors, The Polish Winged Hussars, was portrayed! Not

only in New York, but in any Pułaski Parade anywhere in the U.S. history ever!! The awestruck crowds lining the streets were able to see for the first time a historical figure that they had only read about as children, and showed their pride and honor by cheering most enthusiastically. History, coming alive before them... This was a very significant event to see: The Winged Hussars, under Polish King John III Sobieski, were largely responsible for winning the battle of Vienna by routing the Ottoman/Turkish forces in 1683 and saving Christianity in all of Europe.

This parade portrayal was a new chapter in cultural and historical pride in Polish-American history; yet you and all the other media chose to look the other way and devote your energies to everything else but the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

How can you even look at yourselves in the mirror each day after such a slight?

This type of oversight of the N.Y. Polish Community demands immediate redress, and must never be allowed to happen in the future. If discrimination is supposed to be illegal, then the *Daily News* is unquestionably GUILTY in this regard!!!

With umbrage,

Dr. Roger Chylinski-Polubinski  
President  
Polish Nobility Association Foundation