

WHITE EAGLE

JOURNAL OF THE POLISH NOBILITY ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

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[HTTP://WWW.PNAFPOLHERALDRY.ORG/](http://www.pnafpolheraldry.org/)

P.N.A.F. Delegation Attends 300th Anniversary Celebration of Imperial St. Petersburg in London

Editor—The gala of the year took place in London at Lambeth Palace, home of the Archbishop of Canterbury, on September 24, 2003, to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the founding of St. Petersburg. His Highness Prince Nicholas Romanov, Prince of Russia sponsored the affair on behalf of the Patronage Committee of the Almanach de Gotha, in association with the London Debutante Season. The Almanach de Gotha, originally published in 1760, is The genealogy reference book for the reigning and formerly reigning royal and princely houses of Europe and South America. Its editor is John Kennedy.

Arrangements were made to send three P.N.A.F. members, from both America and the United Kingdom, to cover this occasion: from America, Dr. Felix von Leski-Holewinski; from London, Ms. Irena Uderska; and from Bristol, U.K. Ms. Kelly Wiwatowska-Witt, as assistant and contributing editors respectively for the P.N.A.F. Journal White Eagle. Their coverage of events from their individual points of view follow, beginning with Dr. von Leski-Holewinski.

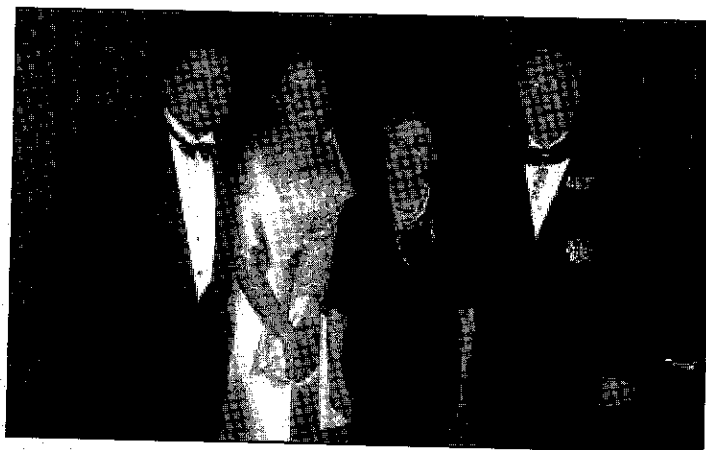
Foundation Members attend Reception and Banquet

by Asst. Editor Dr. Felix Chev. von Leski-Holewinski

On September 24, 2003, three members of the Polish Nobility Association Foundation attended a gala royal reception and banquet in London to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the founding of St. Petersburg. The event, hosted in the name of His Highness Prince Nicholas Romanov, head of the Russian Imperial royal family, and under the patronage of the *Almanach de Gotha* in association with the London Debutante Season, was held in the ancient Lambeth Palace, the residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Yours truly, as a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors, representing the U.S.A. and also as an Associate Editor, along with Ms. Irena Uderska and Ms. Kelly Wiwatowski-Witt, both as contributing editors living in the U.K., represented the P.N.A.F. at this outstanding event.

The group arrived at the Palace at approximately 6:50 p.m., and while waiting for the massive oaken doors to open, we strolled briefly through the historic cemetery which adjoined the Palace and then, into the anteroom leading to the Great Hall. Each guest was formally announced by a resplendently attired master of ceremonies who introduced one and all to H.S.H. Prince Dimitry Romanov, brother of Prince Nicholas, and other members of the Russian Royal family, including Prince Dimitry's wife, Princess Dorrit, his cousin, Princess Olga Romanov, as well as Princes Rostislav and Nikita Romanov.

The magnificent Great Hall was a most fitting venue for the reception. Its towering walls, columnating in the most ornate oak ceiling beams and accented by two massive fireplaces on either end of the hall, were also graced by rows



The P.N.A.F. delegation inside Lambeth Palace. Left to right: Neil Matthews, Kelly Witt, Irena Uderska, and Chevalier Holewinski.

of tall arched windows along both sides of the room, which is currently used as the Archbishop's library. The immense hall houses an impressive collection of extremely rare books and manuscripts. Put on display especially for this event were priceless illuminated manuscripts, as well as an original Gutenberg Bible, given to King Henry VIII. During the reception guests were treated to vintage special reserve Moët et Chandon champagne and canapés provided by Harrods.

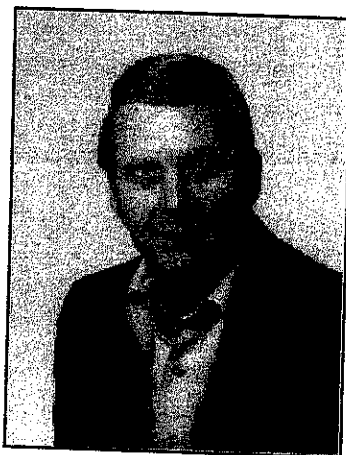
At 8:00 p.m. the State Trumpeter with a guard of honor heralded the presentation of the debutantes from all of England and Europe. The twelve young ladies—dressed in the latest couture and sparkling jewelry with tiaras, and accompanied by their escorts—were presented to His Highness Prince Dimitry. Among the guests at the reception and dinner

continued on page 3

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

There's lots to read about in this issue of the *White Eagle*. The one big story concerns the 300th anniversary of the founding of St. Petersburg, and debutantes coming-out season, all under the auspices of the *Almanach de Gotha*, the Who's Who of past and current royal and mediatized families of both Europe and South America. We were able to send three representatives from the P.N.A.F.: from America, Dr. Felix von Leski-Holewinski, and from the United Kingdom, Ms. Irena Uderska and Ms. Kelly Wiwatowska-Witt. Their reports and photos make interesting reading.

The P.N.A.F. was able, once again, to host the Polish orphaned children at



Baltimore's International College. The story and photos appear on page 6.

We hope you enjoy this last issue for the closing year. We offer an apology also for being so late. We were trying to get as much in the way of newsworthy information as possible for our readers. We also wish to introduce to our readers our new Webmaster, Thomas Hollowak, and advise you of our new Website address: www.pnafpolheraldry.org/ Finally, from the President of the Polish Nobility Association Foundation, and its Board of Trustees and Regional representatives, we take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Holiday Season.

— Leonard J. Suligowski

"*Aby nam się dobrze działo!*"

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were John James, the co-organizer, representing the *Almanach de Gotha*; Princes George and Michael of Yugoslavia, sons of the Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia; Crown Prince Nicholas II, of Montenegro; Princesses Mathilda and Annoiedi Murat and Prince Alain Murat, all direct descendants of the last sovereign Princes of the Republic of Georgia; Count Gottfried von Bismarck, Baron Axel Bauer, and Prince Casimir zu-Sayn-Wittgenstein and the Marquess of Bristol, Lord Beaverbrook, the Honourable Annuziates Rees-Mogg and the Earl of Norbury.

At 9:00 p. m. the toast master announced that all were to enter the Guard Room which adjoined the Great Hall, where dinner was served. The Guard Room was built in the 14th century and originally served as an armory for the Bishop's militia. In 1534, St. Thomas More was examined and tried here by the Lords of the Counsel following his refusal to take the Oath of Supremacy. Dinner was a most sumptuous repast, followed by a dessert consisting of Montblanc followed with coffee and petit fours. Throughout the meal, Moët et Chandon 1996 special reserve champagne was served, along with Harrods' Premier Cru Chablis. The finale of the meal was Belvedere Vodka (which is Polish, rather than Russian) and was used for the toasts. In addition, at each place setting was a red envelope containing a token worth 100 pounds sterling, toward a gold charm from Garrad's, one of the most exclusive jewelers in London.

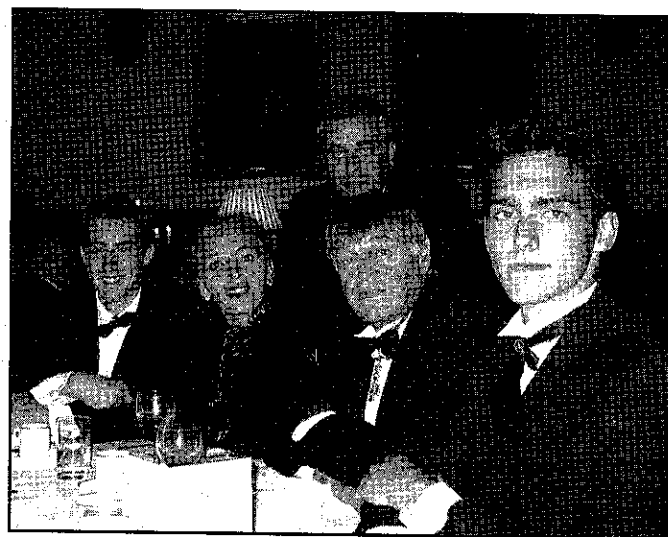
Yours truly had the honor of sitting at table one, with His Highness Dimitry Romanov and his wife Princess Dorrit; Mrs. Judith Taubman, former wife of Sotheby's chairman Alfred Taubman; and Donatella Flick, former wife of Mercedes-Benz heir, Gert-Rudolph Flick. Mrs Flick wore a

Contributing Editor Irena Uderska's coverage of the Festivities

Dr. Holewinski arranged the transport; he, Kelly and Neil (Kelly's escort), and I arrived at the Lambeth Palace together.

Originally the reception and dinner were to be held at Claridge's in Mayfair, but because of security reasons, it was changed at almost the last minute. There were uniformed guards in full regalia bearskins greeting each guest as they were announced to a reception line consisting of Prince Dmitri Romanov and his wife and Princess Olga Romanov, the daughter of Prince Andrew, the (eldest son of the Grand-Duchess Xenia and the Grand Duke Alexander) by his second marriage, and then four other people, three women and one man, whose names alas, I did not catch in the excitement of the moment. The reception was held in the library of Lambeth Palace, a library which has the dimensions of a ballroom!! Countless treasures of leatherbound volumes could be seen all along the walls and also on glass display tables. They included the following treasures, which, in my temporary role as contributing editor to the *White Eagle*, I diligently recorded in my notebook.

The Coronation table display which consisted of the Coronation Bibles of Queen Elizabeth II, George V and Edward VII, plus books with the Liturgy and accounts of the



From left to right: Prince Djordje Karadjordjevic, Crown Princess France Petrovic Njegos, John Kennedy, Crown Prince Nicola Petrovic of Montenegro, Prince Mihalo Karadjordjevic.

rather rare Fabergé diamond neckpiece on loan from the Cartier Museum in Paris. The entire evening including the dinner was filled with stimulating conversation, good food, and excellent wine and champagne amidst the gothic splendor of one of England's most important historic buildings.

John James remarked to the representative of the London society tabloid *Hello*, "It's the first time, as far as I was aware, of the Russian Imperial Family having a significant celebration in this country since the 1874 visit of the last Tsar."

Contents of this Issue

P.N.A.F. Delegation Attends 30th Anniversary Celebration of Imperial St. Petersburg in London	1
From the Editor's Desk	2
The P.N.A.F.	2
Dues and Donations	5
Polish Orphans Feted in Baltimore by P.N.A.F.	6
International News, Notes and Correspondence	7
Obituaries	7
Origin of the Złota Wolność Clan Shield	8
Recent Changes within the P.N.A.F.—A New Webmaster Makes His Mark	9
A Translation from Szymon Konarski's <i>O Heraldyce i heraldycznym snobizmie</i> [On Heraldry and Heraldic Snobbery]: On Poachers Within the Heraldic Woods, Part One	10



From left to right: Princess France Petrovic, Princess Dorrit Romanov, Prince Kasimir Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn, and Mr. John James.

Coronations of Charles II, James II, George II and George III. Other tables held Henry VIII's reply to Luther, the Supplication of James I, and perhaps the most poignant exhibit there, Charles I's copy of Prynne's *Life of Laud*. In the display table of very early printed books pre-1501 (incunabula) were the world's oldest printed book, the Gutenberg Bible, plus the *Nuremberg Chronicle*, the *Ars Moriendi*, the *Danse Macabre*, Lichtenbeger's *Prognostication* and Cicero's *Offices* 1466.

The reception was fantastic! Beverages flowed without ceasing, and food kept appearing non-stop. There was an interesting variety of people, and the common thread was that in one way or another they had some connection with Mr. John Kennedy, the editor of the *Almanach de Gotha*. The actual presentation of the debutantes to the Imperial Family took place in another room and this ceremony was for them alone. Each debutante was escorted by young men in military uniform, who, I gathered, were indeed real soldiers currently serving in the British Armed Forces. One of the debutantes is a member of the Ruffo di Calabria family (Queen Paola of Belgium). Another personage of note, the Marquis of Bristol, was there; this young man's father was one of the leading lights of the Monarchist League, and indeed, in a recent issue of *Monarchy* there is a review of the latest book on the House of Hervey. Other guests included Prince George and Prince Michael of Serbia, the sons of the late Prince Tomislav.

The dinner itself took place in the Guard Room, where once the Dukedoms of Norfolk and Suffolk and the Earldoms of Surrey and Worcester had been created, and also where Sir Thomas More refused to swear the oath to Henry VIII as head of the Church.

This was the utterly fabulous menu: Quail Lucullus stuffed with foie gras in aspic; Poached wild salmon dressed with asparagus; Mediterranean prawns in herbs and dill mayonnaise; Sevruga caviar and blinis, and new potatoes. After the main entrée, Montblanc (dessert), coffee and petit fours, Moët et Chandon Special Reserve Vintage champagne 1996, Harrods' Premier Cru Chablis, Harrods' Claret, and Belvedere Vodka from the House of Moët et Chandon.

We were all seated at different tables. Dr. Holewinski had pride of placement next to Princess Dorrit Romanov; Prince Dimitri was also at this table, as was Sir Toby Clark—he is a Baronet and is always in the English press as he campaigns for rights for the Baronets. Kelly Wiwatowska-Witt and her escort, Mr. Neil Matthews, were at the table with Prince and Princess Murat, who live in the Georgian Republic (of the old U.S.S.R.), the Kingdom of the Bagratians. A few generations past, one of the Princes Murat married a Georgian Princess. The Prince himself was resplendent in the Georgian national dress.

I had the honor of being seated at another table next to Crown Prince Nikolas (the *de jure* King of Montenegro) and the Princess of Montenegro, and an enchanting couple from Dubai who looked exactly what Central Casting would have sent if asked to produce a Maharajah and Maharini. There was no way to describe them, they were like a shower of rose petals. Also there was an eccentric and exuberant Englishman who spoke fluent French with the Crown Prince and Mr. John Kennedy as well, who is actually connected with the Montenegro Royals; he uses his mother's maiden name as he went into politics. He was the Parliamentary Conservative candidate some years back in Birmingham, where they have a large Serbian population. He inherited some property in Montenegro to which he has since added and has just spent the summer there. The Guard Room was lined with portraits of the various Archbishops of Canterbury looking down upon the guests as if to say, "Welcome to our home".....

I have to report that Dr. Holewinski was one of the stars of the evening. He left weighed down with so many visiting cards that he will need a new address book. It was such a wonderful evening and I thank you and the P.N.A.F. for having included me in all this.

Observations by Contributing Editor Ms. Kelly Wiwatowska-Witt

Despite some minor communications glitches, Dr. Holewinski, Ms. Uderska, Mr. Neil Matthews, my escort, and I made a successful connection prior to arriving at Lambeth Palace.

There had been a rumor circulating prior to the event that photography and recordings would not be allowed. But just in case this rumor was unfounded, Neil brought along a small

digital camera. He was prepared to declare and surrender it if there was indeed a control point. Nonetheless, to be sure, he kept the camera tucked away.

Ms. Uderska had brought along a hand-held tape recorder as well. A really fun personality, she made no effort to disguise the fact that she had this item, and no one stopped her from recording the speeches.



At left, left to right: Miss Kelly Witt, Prince Alain Murat, and Princess Mathilde Murat (his daughter!).

At right, left to right: Neil Matthews and Prince Alain Murat.



At the dinner we dined on a four-course meal which, I understand, had been catered by Harrods. As Dr. Holewinski was seated at table one, and Ms. Uderska was at table two, we were unable to coordinate our efforts as far as collection of information. Neil and I were seated at table four, along with five other guests. Unfortunately, due to a mishap regarding seating arrangements at our table and the one adjacent, it was difficult to ascertain who was who. For this reason I was unable to catch the name of the woman sitting on Neil's right; but the woman sitting on his left was Mrs. Morgan-Rees, whose daughter was one of the debutantes. In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Morgan-Rees were the winners of the silent auction, winning a dinner for ten at the private dining room in Garrad's Fine Jewelry store.

At my end of the table I was seated next to His Royal Highness Prince Alain Murat from the province of Georgia and his wife Princess Veronique. Towards the end of dinner, two additional gentlemen joined us for desserts and coffee. They were on the organizing committee and had been downstairs working all evening.

A few moments later, Princess Veronique, whose daughter Princess Mathilde was one of the 12 debutantes,

brought out a camera and began taking pictures. I leaned over to the event organizer to my right and asked if that was permissible. He laughed, and said "Oops! No, they shouldn't be doing that." By that time, however, others around the room had followed suit and were taking photographs as well. The prevailing attitude then became one of "Oh well, go ahead, I guess you can do it."

To this end Neil and I managed to get a precious three pictures inside the palace, hoping that they will be of use. One of the photos taken is that of Prince Murat wearing his Georgian costume, and me (see above). The second is with Neil, and the third we were able to convince a Lambeth Palace staff member to take a photo of the four of us—Dr. Holewinski, Ms. Uderska, Neil and myself—in the hallway of the palace (see page 1). From having the opportunity to view one of the original Gutenberg Bibles, to hearing about all the good work the Romanov Fund for Russia does for the underprivileged children, it was a lovely evening.

Finally, I just wanted to thank you very kindly for giving Neil and me this rare opportunity to attend such an exciting event. We were honored to be able to represent the PNAF and we graciously thank you for thinking of us. ☺

Dues and Donations

Rt. Rev. John Abucewicz	\$150.00	William (Hr.) Krzyzanowski	100.00
Shirley Beaudin	12.00	Ben Ledohowski	25.00
SWETS Blackwell	15.00	Charles T. Mantkus	35.00
William Dżuzniewski	25.00	Leonard Miedzianowski	75.00
Eugene J. Dreger	37.00	Dr. Andre J. Nolewajka, M.D.	35.00
Joseph Dressel	25.00	Frank A. Phillips	35.00
Mst. Sgt. (ret.) Anthony Dzimitrowicz	25.00	Christina Polanski-de Swida	25.00
EBSCO	15.00	Dr. Roger Chylinski-Polubinski	100.00
Theresa M. Gariaeff	50.00	Capt. Roman E. Piotrowski (ret.)	25.00
Dr. Paul W. Gulgowski	54.00	Thomas Rynkala	35.00
Christina Gutt	25.00	Debra G. Sadecki	35.00
Alfreda Guzik	40.00	Leonard J. Suligowski	540.75
Dr. Felix W. v. L. Holewinski	100.00	Gary M. Walsh	30.00
Jorge Iwaszkiewicz	50.00	Stanislas M. Yassukovich	100.00 ☺

Polish Orphans Feted in Baltimore by P.N.A.F.

Another event occurring recently was the Annual Polish Orphans' visit to Baltimore, literally a Summer of Dreams for this particular group from Silesia, conducted under the auspices of Poland's first Lady, Mrs. Jolanta Kwaśniewska, and the American Center of Polish Culture in Washington, D.C. All the fathers of this year's children perished in Silesian coal mine accidents, and this vacation was a special joint humanitarian effort on their behalf by Poland and U. S. Polonia.

After almost a full day of tourist activities—which included transportation via luxury motor coach, touring the Maryland Science Center, and viewing "Titanic" in 3-D IMAX—the next event was a visit to the National Aquarium, for the Dolphin Show. Then it was on to a luncheon sponsored by the Polish Nobility Association and hosted by the Baltimore International College, through the courtesy of its president, Dr. Roger Chyliński-Połubiński, who is also the President of the Polish Nobility Association Foundation. Other events followed, including a subsidized (\$25) shopping spree, and a shoulder bag containing T-shirts, hooded sweatshirts, disposable cameras, novelties, candy, snacks, bottled water and juices, donated by the Polish National Alliance Council 21, and the Polish American Congress.

Special thanks for setting up and managing all the preparations go to Mr. Richard Poremski and Mr. Charles (Chuck) Slomski, and to Master Chef Jan Bandula and his staff for managing the luncheon at Baltimore's International College. Not to be omitted for their personalized input in making the day one not too soon to be forgotten by the children, kudos go out to Mr. Jim Mislak and the ladies of the Polish National Alliance; Milton and Connie Brzozowski, for their generous donation and all the publicity; Ray Dombroski as the Polish-speaking liaison; Gloria Weber and Ronald Dillon of the Dillon Bus service, who donated the transportation; Mr. Lewis Hubbard (Gloria's grandson), for getting the water taxi rides; and last but not least, to Dr. and Mrs. Marion Kowalewski and family for putting together a gift bag for each child.

It was reported that in all the traveling the children did in the United States, they voted Baltimore their favorite city. Indeed, there is no doubt that all the visiting children will take back with them many memories of a time when wonder and gaiety were able to override the personal losses they have endured.

[All photos courtesy of Richard Poremski, PNAF]. &



At left: all the children and their chaperones (on the right).

At right: Master Chef Jan Badula of Baltimore International College.

At lower left: the children line up for their meal at the College.

At lower right: the children dine. Standing at left is Charles (Chuck) Slomski; at right, Chef Jan Bandula makes sure all is in order.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS, NOTES, AND CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Chyliński-Polubiński Serves on Committee

Dr. Roger, Ks. Chyliński-Polubiński has been recently asked by Maryland's Governor Robert Ehrlich to serve as an Honorary Committee member of the Maryland/Łódź Sister State Committee. Past members have included the Honorable, Governor William Donald Schaefer, MD.; the Honorable Barbara Mikulski, U.S. Senator from Maryland; the Honorable Kazimierz Dziewanowski, U.S. Ambassador, Republic of Poland; Dr. Donald Slowinski, (Ret.) Pres. Essex Comm. College; and Dr. Roger Chyliński-Polubiński, President of the Baltimore International College, Maryland/Ireland.

Dr. Chyliński-Polubiński was also recently asked by Governor Ehrlich to become a Charter Member of the Maryland Trust, and he accepted.

Dr. von Dassanowsky Honored

PNAF Central States Representative, Dr Robert von Dassanowsky (Jastrzębiec, of the Counts Taczanów-Taczanowski) received two major honors in 2003. He has been designated a Knight of Merit in the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George, the oldest Roman Catholic Order in existence, by its hereditary Grand Master, H.R.H. The Infante of Spain, Don Carlos of Bourbon-Two Sicilies and Bourbon-Parma. He was also made an Honorary Knight of the Order of St. Michael of the Wing, by H.R.H. Dom Duarte Duke of Braganca, the Crown Prince of Portugal. These honors recognize his work in European culture, literature and film, and his promotion of Catholicism.

Prince Rainier's Birthday

Prince Rainier of Monaco celebrated his 80th birthday quietly in May, with his children and grandchildren, the only expected guests at the celebrations. "There will be nothing

official—it's a private and family birthday." All the members of the family were present; joining the popular monarch were his three children, Prince Albert, Princess Caroline and Princess Stephanie, as well as his seven grandchildren, who range in age from 4 to 18. Last year Prince Ranier was still recovering from the illness of fatigue and bronchitis, just two weeks before his 79th birthday. In November he had missed Monaco's National Day festivities for the first time in his more than 50-year reign, as he was hospitalized once again, recovering from a respiratory infection. However, the head of the Grimaldi clan improved, and he continues to enjoy good health.

[From the British journal Monarchy, with permission]

Lithuanian News

On July 6, 2003 Lithuania celebrated 750 years since the coronation of King Mindaugas. The Royal Association of Lithuanian Nobility (LBKS) commemorated this day in the Noblemen Palace in Trakų Vokė. The State Day, when the first Lithuanian king Mindaugas was crowned in 1253, was celebrated in the manor house of Count Tiškevičius. The 118 new members were legitimized and received their Statements of Nobility.

The coronation of Mindaugas, which initiated the European recognition of the Republic of Lithuania, was mentioned in independent Lithuania even before the Soviet occupation. Many years have passed, and until now everything that is national, that evokes patriotic feelings, historical memory of the nation was suppressed for almost 50 years. Having declared our independence, we are trying to educate people more about the history of our country. The Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania on October 25, 1990, declared that the day of the coronation of Mindaugas, the 6th of July, will be the national holiday.

Until 1200 A.D. the Baltic tribes along the southeastern shores of the Baltic—Prussians, Yatvingens, Semigallians, Curonians, Lithuanians, Latgalians, Galindians, Samogitians and others—were largely unnoticed by the then "civilized" world and were individually ruled by their own tribal chieftains. They were the last non-baptized pagan peoples in Europe, sandwiched between the Byzantine east and Roman west. Mindaugas was the first and "only" King of Lithuania,



Isabelle d'Orleans et Brangance the Countess of Paris

Isabelle d'Orleans et Brangance, Countess of Paris, who was married to a pretender to the throne of France, died on July 5th in Paris. She was 93. The countess was the widow of Henri, Count of Paris, whom many royalists wanted to become King Henri VI of France. He died in 1999, and the couple's eldest son, also called Henri, claimed the title of Count of Paris and Duke of France, becoming the new pretender. A granddaughter of the last empress of Brazil, the Countess wrote many books of memoirs, as well as some biographical and historical writings about her family.



Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, who died May 12, 2003, at age 70, was the uncle of Karim Aga Khan IV, the spiritual leader of the Ismaili Shia muslims, and was himself a philanthropist, collector of art and holder of several senior humanitarian posts at the United Nations.

and the one responsible for introducing Christianity to the country. On July 6, 1253 Mindaugas was crowned King of Lithuania. It is thought that the coronation took place in the newly-built Cathedral in Vilnius, with the Livonian magistrate and other high ranking officials in attendance. The coronation was a great achievement; Lithuania became a full-fledged European state.

Mindaugas united the various princes into a single state and was formally recognized as the ruler, and was crowned

by the Pope. Though Mindaugas and his immediate family became Christians, it was a difficult task to Christianize the entire people.

[From the LBKS newsletter, with permission, courtesy of Ms. Audronė Musteikienė, personal Website: <http://www.geocities.com/bituke>; LBKS Website: <http://lbks.tinklapis.lt/en/index.html>. LBKS address: Žatijoti aikštė 2a, Trakų Vokė, Vilnius LT-4002.J ☺

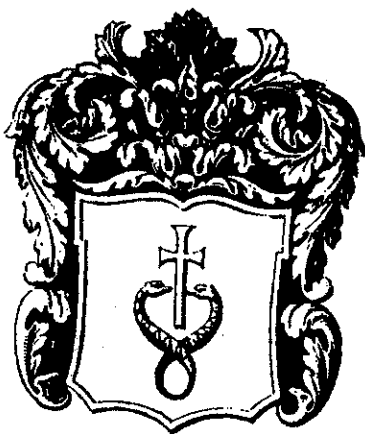
Origin of the Złota Wolność Clan Shield

The following was prepared from an entry on pages 175-176 of Volume 10 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. 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 already 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.

Arms: Azure, two serpents embowed into a figure "8", between the heads, a cross patee, couped in base.

In volume 3, page 346, Okolski's armorial gives this clan shield as showing two serpents so arranged that together they form the figure 8, and between them there is a cross.* He surmises that this coat of arms was given to a shrewd man who succeeded in making peace between two princes who had long been involved in a dispute with each other, and thus created harmony between them.

This same Okolski says that he saw such a clan shield on the gate of the castle of Brzeżany, and concludes—surely correctly—that one of the Sieniawskis who had connected himself with this family used this coat of arms, among others. He saw it in another place, as



well, in the sacristy of the church at Radłów, and it was his idea to call it *Złota Wolność* ["Golden Freedom"].

Rev. Petrasancta in *De tess. gentil.*, chapter five, included among other foreign coats of arms a staff around which two serpents were coiled three times, and adds that some houses in Silesia used this emblem on a sapphire shield in their seals.

*Translator's note: Since this clan shield was not fully blazoned (described), the *Polska Encyklopedia Szlachecka* was checked (Vol. III, page 520), and it gives the following citation: "In a blue field, two black serpents coiled to form the figure

eight, and between them a cross of gold. On a crowned helmet can be found a crest of three ostrich plumes. This clan is said to have come from Silesia." ☺

Recent Acquisitions to the Archives

O dynastycznym szlachte polskiej pochodzeniu [Of Polish Noble Dynastic Descent], by Dr. F. Piekosiński

Armorial of the Awards of Nobility Honor and Aristocracy in Poland from 1992-1995 (A questionable and dubious armorial, considering its source)

Общий гербовникъ дворянскихъ родовъ Всероссийской Имперіи [Obshchiiy gerbovník dvorianskikh rodov vsie-rossiyskoi imperii, General Armorial of Courtier Origins in Russia]. Vols. 1-3 (Russian Text)

House with a Porch (Polish Emigrant Story), by Stanley Daniloski

An acknowledgement of a donation by P.N.A. member Irena Uderska of *The Genealogies of the Princely Houses of Liechtenstein from Hartman II 1544-1585*, by S. C. Dotson ☺

Recent Changes within the P.N.A.F. — A New Webmaster Makes his Mark

Say hello to our brand new Webmaster, Mr. Thomas Hollowak (originally Chołochwost). Until recently he was unaware of his Lithuanian nobility, but his ancestor's nobility was recently verified by a researcher who found appropriate documents in the Lithuanian archives. Although his surname was listed in several Lithuanian and Polish armorials, until now no coat of arms was known to be associated with it; but it has been established that his ancestors bore the clan shield known as Czerwina ("red field"). This coat of arms falls into the category of "rarity and singularity" in that it bears the tincture (color) of the shield, as all Red, with no charge/device or sign displayed.

The name of Hollowak is most likely familiar to many of our readers, since he has had several books published in the fields of genealogy and history, especially in reference to refugees from both Poland and Lithuania who came to the shores of Baltimore to find a place to settle. He received his B.A. in History in 1984 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and his M.A. in History in 1990 from the University of Maryland, College Park. In 1984 he received a certificate from the University of Kraków, Poland for summer school classes covering the Polish language and culture.

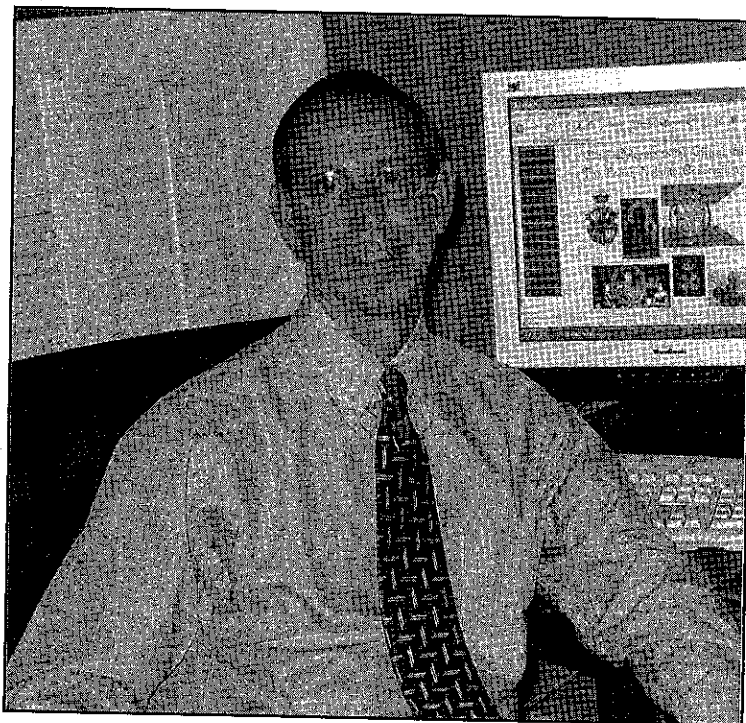
He is currently with the Langsdale Library of the University of Baltimore. From September 1990-99 he held the position of Archivist in the Special Collections and Reference department, and from February 1999 to the present he has served as the Department Head of this Special Collections Dept. He is the recipient of many honors, and is listed in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in Polish America*. He has authored 18 published works on the subjects relating to the history of Baltimore and its inhabitants and has written many articles on similar themes. For more information see this page on the P.N.A.F. Website: <http://pnafpolheraldry.org/hollowak.htm>.

The P.N.A.F. proudly welcomes this distinguished personage as our new Webmaster. In the space of such a short time he has re-designed our Website and turned it into a repository of information for all Polonia to enjoy. 🇵🇱


CORRECTION

Rik Fox sent us an e-mail pointing out a mistake in the last issue of *White Eagle*: "... The cartouche of Sobieski on the last page, text, mistakenly mentions the date of Vienna as December 1683. It's really September 1683."

We appreciate the correction and regret the error.
— Editor.

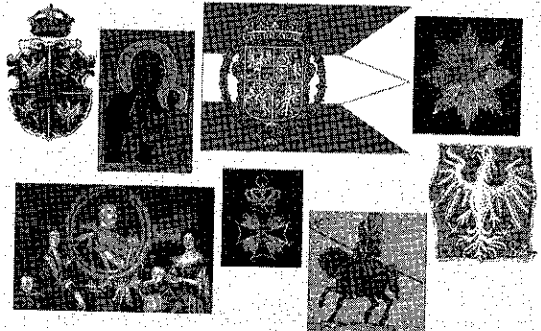


Thomas L. Hollowak



Polish Nobility Association Foundation
Villa Anneslie
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Welcome to the Official Site of
The Polish Nobility Association Foundation



The PNA(F) is a non-profit foundation dedicated to all of English speaking Polonia. The PNA(F) was founded in 1919, and reorganized in 1927.

This is the Official PNA(F) Website © 1998
Thomas L. Hollowak - Webmaster

Above, the opening page of the new, re-designed PNAF Website, at www.pnafpolheraldry.org/. Be sure to make a note of the new address, and to stop by and let Tom know what you think.

A Translation from Szymon Konarski's *O Heraldryce i heraldycznym snobizmie* [On Heraldry and Heraldic Snobbery] *O Kłusownikach w Heraldycznej Kniei* [On Poachers within the Heraldic Woods] Part One

Clever individuals realized long ago that every human weakness may be the object of speculation. Beyond this, even cleverer individuals have understood that these weaknesses can be cultivated like plants, and, so cultivated, can yield a rich harvest. There are many human weaknesses. The exploitation and cultivation of some of them is prohibited by law. They yield greater profits because this kind of business is associated with risk. Only the very brave appear in the marketplace of human weaknesses.

It is a very different matter with their milder forms, such as, for instance, snobbery. But after all, it's so simple. What does it cost to call one who regards himself as a great painter a "master"? If the "master" attains success, perhaps he will not forget the one who long ago appreciated his merits. A speculator of this sort risks nothing with his flattery.

It is more difficult to get away with addressing a Lieutenant as "*Generale*." But addressing as "*drogi Książę*" ["dear Prince"] one who has no right to such a title presents no risks, and brings all concerned a certain pleasure. Let's say this is done during a game of bridge: it pleases the one so addressed; it pleases those playing with him that they have such an illustrious partner; and finally it even pleases the one who used this expression. He has become in this way a sort of creator. He has enhanced the splendor of his Polish friend in exile—"for the glory of Poland," obviously.

These are, however, primitive forms of speculation in title snobbery. How much art is involved in calling someone "Prince"? But to labor away at proving that history somehow made the mistake of overlooking the existence of 10 sons of the childless Świdrygiełło—of whom the youngest son gave rise to the family of the Princes Świdorski (really!)⁶⁰—or that the son of the equally childless Wojsielko, himself the son of Mendog, was the forefather of the family of the Princes Weryho-Darowski (really!)⁶¹—now that means something, and is by no means so easy to do. It demands knowledge, a way with words, and great impudence. And word could get around that one is a forger of history. That has actually happened a few times. In such cases the defense was carried on by means of articles that asserted one must rely on tradition rather than on "worthless paper documents." For after all, tradition is the true repository of history: tradition, and only tradition.

Thus, or to similar effect, wrote the defenders of counterfeit titles. But at the same time their staffs and subordinates missed no opportunity to recreate, whenever and wherever

possible, with great toil and labor, those despised diplomas and patents issued by the partitioners. Sometimes they reached back to the pre-partition monarchs, sometimes to later ones. Thus we have also Swedish titles (of Prince and Count); and if the corresponding chancelleries have not preserved any trace of their conferment, that is hardly the fault of the titled persons! Was it their duty to supervise some Swedish *Riksregistratur*?

The activity of these "workshops" never caused anyone to lose money. Many an author of "fortunately rediscovered authentic documents" lived out his life in peace; some built themselves town houses in the Old Town. But that's enough about that; I don't wish to beat around the bush. What I'm getting at is the assertion that usurpation was born of a mother, tradition, and of a father, the forger.

I have already talked about traditions. Now it is time for me to list the poachers whose names, works, or memory of their works have survived to the present time.

Before trying to give as complete a list of heraldic poachers as possible, I must stress that they should be divided into two groups: poachers who were mere pests, and those who were true forgers.

The first group includes those who, with no gain to themselves, falsified or adorned the history of families out of personal conviction. Either they truly believed what they were writing, or they wrote with commendable concern for elevating the spirit—and that includes the patriotic spirit. The laudable deeds of ancestors were, after all, entered into the pages of the grand book of praise for the fatherland. In this category I include Paprocki, but with certain reservations of a moral nature; for it is not certain that Pan Bartosz did not realize some personal profit from his work as a historian and as a cataloger of inventories for noble families. In the same category of "not guilty/guilty" we may conclude Okolski, perhaps, and Stupnicki for sure. Also that author known only by his initials, G. B.⁶²; and finally, at the very end, Count Seweryn Uruski, well known from Polish genealogical literature.⁶³ For these men, extenuating circumstances bid us overlook their faults.

The father of honest Polish genealogical literature, Kasper Niesiecki, occupies a place of his own. Wholly devoted to his passion as a searcher, when the material he had collected surpassed his expectations, he wanted to record it in print. He found reasonable and powerful patrons; nonetheless he feared that, in the climate of the time, which he knew well,

⁶⁰*Armorial général de la noblesse titrée*. Paris 1929. Editor Albert Messein, Volume II, page 132.

⁶¹A. Weryha, *Ród kniaziów Weryhów* [The Clan of the Weryha Princes]. Warsaw 1937, page 64.

⁶²G. B., *Notice sur les principales familles de la Pologne* [Notes on the Principal Families of Poland], Dresde 1862.

⁶³(S. Uruski), *Notices sur les familles illustres et titrées de la Pologne* [Notes and Titles of Famous Polish Families], Paris/Bruxelles 1862.

he would not be able to present things as he saw and understood them, that he would have to make too many sacrifices to human conceit, at the expense of the truth. He chose a tactic which, in his opinion, would, at the cost of a minor concession, enable him to relate truthfully at least the last century of the history of the families about whom he wrote.

This concession was harmless flattery (in his opinion) in the form of deriving families from Caesar, Corvinus, Popiel, or Leszek. And that's what he did. He gathered a handful from the legends of chroniclers, added things he'd heard, and sometimes put in a sentence expressing certain reservations—his own. He felt that he had thus made compensation, and in this way had the chance to give the facts after those fairy tales, so that in his eyes he presented himself as an honest historian.

It was all in vain. The nobles swallowed descent from Popiel easily, but were outraged by his insolence in treating all the families the same way, making those "of ancient descent" equal with "upstarts." They were aggrieved that their dignity was not described properly. As a result they complained about Niesiecki to the Jesuits' general, and caused him to be shut up in a monastery, dragged from town to town, and tormented till he died of grief. In this way they saw to it that he never published the volume in which he intended to give a full list of all offices and positions of all kinds, all the way up to the lowest county levels and to his own time. Polish science lost what may have been the most valuable of Niesiecki's works, contained in the already compiled but wasted fifth volume of his armorial.

And now, who were the forgers? We know very little about the most ancient ones. Perhaps the first from whom anything has survived was Krzysztof-Stanisław Janikowski, who died around 1680 and was, for his time, not a bad paleographer. He was unmasked quickly, while he was still alive.⁶⁴

The second, much more fortunate—as he was not exposed until during the period covered by my memory, whereas he had died in prosperity and with honors in 1685—was Reverend Stanisław Wojeński. In 1661 he was a canon of Kraków, in 1679 the Bishop of Kamieniec. As the head of a special committee in charge of drawing up an inventory of the Royal Treasury Archive at the castle of Kraków, he planted in that archive a document he had forged, supposedly from 1400 and talking about various honors and titles allegedly acquired by the Zadoras, to whom, in his imagination only, the Wojeńskis supposedly belonged. The families involved used these created titles—in good faith—until 1930.⁶⁵

⁶⁴The 18-volume *Encyklopedia Orgelbranda*, vol. XIII, Warszawa 1863, pp. 31-32; Z. Gloger, *Encyklopedia staropolska*, vol. II, Warszawa 1901, pp. 142-143; "Największy fałszerz dawnej Polski" [The greatest forger of ancient Poland], an unsigned article in the periodical *Caritas*, R. XII, no. 4/127, Warszawa, 1956.

⁶⁵Z. Lasocki, "O fałszyfikatach w Archiwum Skarbu Koronnego" [On forgeries in the Crown Treasury Archive], *Miesięcznik heraldyczny*, vol. IX. 1930, pp. 177-192.

After them comes a certain Przybysław Dyamentowski, of the clan Drya, with the by-name Mutyna, who distinguished himself as a skillful forger of diplomas, genealogies, and chronicles. He was born in 1694 and died in 1774.⁶⁶

A successor and imitator of Dyamentowski was the most productive of all the creators of honors: Wojciech Wincenty Wieladko, son of the Kiev *stolnik* [master of the pantry], born in 1745, died in 1822. So he lived peacefully to a ripe old age in a townhouse he had acquired in Warsaw, although by the end of his life some unfriendly souls had begun to accuse him of making income by creating titled nobility. And it was no small number he created, for there is a tradition (see above) that says August II conferred the title of count upon 14 families of Polish nobility. We know today that this king did not confer a single title. I state, with little probability of error, that all or almost all of these diplomas came from Wieladko's townhouse in Warsaw, and not at all from the

***The nobles swallowed descent from Popiel,
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Warsaw castle or the palace in Dresden.⁶⁷ In addition, a veritable flood of documents affirming rights to titles for nobles proving their identity in the seized *gubernias* during the period 1785 to circa 1832 came from that same office of *pan* Wojciech. I can name among this group, from among many fictional titles of count, the Jezierskis of clan Rogala⁶⁸, the Łabędzakis⁶⁹ and the Szantyrs⁷⁰. These "works" did not, however, survive their maker by much. It was their sheer number that ruined them. It required a review of the books of the nobility, and the inspectors knew these documents better than the county delegates who worked for the *gubernia* [Russian: province] nobility marshal. This review was finally completed around 1850.

What followed was a massacre. Entries were declared void and the persons involved were instructed to prove their identity again. As a result one would search in vain today for the Jezierskis of clan Rogala, the Łabędzakis, the Szantyrs, and many others in the official list of the nobility⁷¹, and in the

⁶⁶Orgelbrand, *op. cit.*, vol. VII, page 730.

⁶⁷Orgelbrand, *op. cit.*, vol. XXVI, pages 887-888; *Stolica*, Warszawa, the issue dated 29 November 1953.

⁶⁸L. Białkowski, *Lewaltowie Jezierscy herbu Rogala*. Toruń, 1930, p. 11 and 13; Documents in the archive of S. Konarski in Paris.

⁶⁹A. Boniecki, *op. cit.*, vol. X, page 139.

⁷⁰*Herold, Organ Kolegium Heraldycznego*. Warszawa 1930-1936, Yearbook V, pages 88-94.

⁷¹*Списки титулованных родов и лиц Империи [Spiski titulovannykh rodam i litsam Rossiyskoi Imperii, Lists of Titled Clans and Individuals of the Russian Empire]*, S. Petersburg, 1892.

official nobility lists for those who had proved their identity in the individual *gubernias*. True, you can find some in the *gubernia* lists, but not in part V (titled families) of the nobility registers. Let me give as an example the Szantyrs: after their original proof of nobility, registered in Minsk in 1819, was most officially crossed out, they cannot be found again until 1848⁷², and then not in part V, but in parts I and VI.⁷³ It was and is not in their best interest, however, to announce this setback. Hardly anyone looks through the *gubernia* lists today, and many people remember the splendid genealogies from the year "1003" and unexecuted decisions on entering these families in part V. It is not for me to judge whether the author of a philippic in defense of the Szantyrs' title wrote what he wrote⁷⁴ in ignorance of the facts, or if he was relying on the ignorance of his readers.

In the mid-19th century we come across Zdanowski, a Poznań archivist and a skillful forger of pedigrees found in that archive.⁷⁵ His counterpart was in Płock, also an archivist, a certain Leszek who was active in the second half of the 19th century⁷⁶. During this same period I do not believe that the offices specially dealing with establishing families' descent were exempt from the charge of mass falsification of the pedigree documents essential for proving one's descent to the Herald of the Kingdom of Poland. Primitive forgeries I have seen of entries in Piotrków *gród* records (from which official extracts were later made) contributed to the growth in the list of Polish nobles.⁷⁷ Ludwik Zieliński, who collaborated with J. N. Bobrowicz in publishing the second edition of *Niesiecki*, also has various sins on his conscience.⁷⁸

A very special case is that of forgery whose creators I do not know because they are concealed by the darkness of a crime not discovered in time. During the years of the Herald's activity in Warsaw more than a dozen blank forms used for

proving noble descent, already signed by the president of the Herald at the time, were stolen from its office. Due to the president's frequent absence, this foresighted office had protected itself from delays in issuing diplomas by collecting from him in advance the signatures without which the diplomas were of no legal or practical value. The name of the person whose descent had been established was added to these blank forms that had already been signed, and the proper clan shield was painted in. Great was the amazement of the late worthy Bishop Antoni Szlagowski, Warsaw suffragan, when in the 30s he ascertained that the diploma proving noble descent that he possessed from his father did not appear in the records of the former Herald's office, and his name was not on the list of identified nobles of the Kingdom of Poland. When he began to look for the cause of this negligence, he learned from the directorate of the Archiwum Akt Dawnych in Warsaw that an agent skilled in establishing proof of noble descent had saved himself some trouble and accepted a fee from the Szlagowskis, giving them forged documents of having conducted such proof. It goes without saying that in this case it was impossible to accuse the victims of this affair of forgery. I do not know how many more such diplomas rest in private archives of the families involved, regarded as valued documents, unless they were destroyed during the last war.

I think that up to the end of the 19th century everything was in the forgers' favor, because back then, who knew anything about paleography? As long as fantasy could be written, the rest was a minor matter. No one investigated the style of the document, or the ink, or even compared the calligraphy of entries with others standing alongside, i. e., those preceding and following an entry made in an open space in the *liber inscriptionum* [book of entries] or *oblaty*.

Even though in our times many technical difficulties have arisen for forgers, that same faith remains on the part of those concerned. What a joy it is for "Baron" X or "Prince" Y to get the news from an obliging friend that noted heraldician (or just antiquarian) such-and-such has discovered an interesting document that confirms irrefutably a title of this or that family. In this department Ludgard Grocholski may have done the most harm for Polish learning. His publication *Herald*, and several organizations he created in Warsaw—institutes, colleges, unions, etc.—are today a real mine of information for the researcher on how it is possible to create an unlawful union between erudition and fantasy. For several score years it will be difficult to tell at first glance where in his studies the truth ends and the fiction begins. He had a number of collaborators. One of the most harmful was Jan Godziemba Maleszewski-Maleszewo, who wrote, after all, in that same office of the Herald under many pseudonyms. More than once the *Miesięcznik heraldyczny* printed censure of him and his master from the pens of their ablest colleagues. Professor Dworzaczek gives his opinion of *Herald* and the articles appearing in it in his book *Genealogia* (page 128), and before him Leon Bialkowski did so in his dissertation on traditions (*op. cit.*).

[To be continued in the next issue] ❧

⁷²Алфавитный списокъ дворянскимъ родамъ Минской губернии, внесеннымъ въ дворянскую родословную книгу по 1-е июля 1903 года [Al'favitnyi spisok dvorianskim rodam Minskoj gubernii, vnesionym v dvorianskuiu rodoslovnuiu knigu po 1-3 iyula 1903 goda, *Alphabetical list of noble clans of Minsk province entered in the noble genealogy book after 1 July 1903*]. Minsk. Gubernskaia Tipografia, 1903, page 121.

⁷³According to a law from 1785 (Catherine II's *Hramota*), the *gubernia* nobility registers were to be divided into six parts: I for nobles who could not document their descent for more than 100 years; II and III for those who gained the right to "new ennoblement" on the basis of possessing military and official rank; IV for foreign nobles settled in Russia; V for titled nobles, and VI for (untitled) nobles who documented their descent from before 1685.

⁷⁴*Herald*, *op. cit.*, Year 5, pages 88-94.

⁷⁵W. Dworzaczek, *op. cit.*, page 83.

⁷⁶T. Żychliński, *Złota księga szlachty polskiej* [Golden Book of Polish Nobility], *op. cit.*, vol. XIII, page 191.

⁷⁷Pedigree records of the Wrześniewski family, formerly in the Archiwum Akt Dawnych, as well as the corresponding Piotrków books in the Archiwum Główne in Warsaw.

⁷⁸Orgelbrand, *op. cit.*, vol. XXVIII, page 486.