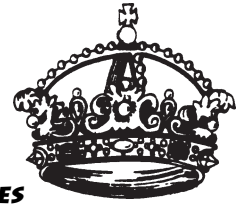




# WHITE EAGLE

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## THE KATYN MASSACRES: CLASS GENOCIDE AND INTERNATIONAL COVER – UP

The term “Katyn Massacre” originally referred only to the massacre of Polish Army prisoners of war by the Russian Secret Police in the Katyn Forest 19 Km west of Smolensk, Russia during World War II. It now, however, is also applied to the simultaneous Russian prison camps at Ostoshkow and Strobelsk for a total of 15,570 executed.

The first evidence of this a mass grave of 4,243 Polish Army German troops in April of 1943 in were shot in the back of the head Nazis government quickly blamed international as well as a the including the U.S. and the government after the fall of prisoners were in fact murdered

This bloody event was the result Starting with their duplicitous pact planned on again partitioning remaining post war puppet objectives, however, they several obstacles which needed to Indeed, the biggest obstacles within Polish society that could be and its allied elements of the upper

After the reappearance of Poland reappeared with renewed vigor element in the economic, political country, allying itself with the addition, a segment of the upper extent, of the descendents of

as traditional wealthy middle class families united to old noble families through marriage, also constituted an important element of Poland’s post World War I power structure and political leadership. These two allied social classes were traditionally nationalistic and strongly anti-Russian and anti-Communist, hence, they represented a formidable obstacle to future Russian plans to Communize Poland and former Polish territory. As a consequence, when the Russian Army invaded



executions of Polish prisoners from

horrendous crime came to light when Officers were discovered by invading the Western Ukraine. The soldiers and most were also bayoneted. The the Soviet Union and subsequent investigations of various countries disclosure of documents by the Russian Communism, clearly proved that these by the Soviet Union.

of Russia’s plans for post-war Poland. with Nazis Germany in 1942 Russia Poland and Communizing the country. To achieve these long term understood that they were faced with be removed.

facing the Russians were two elements seen as future opponents, the nobility middle class.

after World War II the nobility establishing itself as a prominent and social life and leadership of the government of Marshal Pilsudski. In middle class consisting, to a great ancient declassed noble families as well

*continued on page 5*

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I first want to wish all members of the P.N.A. and the P.N.A.F. happy New Year and hope that you're Christmas was a holy and joyful occasion. Second I want to extend a special thank you to all those who have sent in material for inclusion in the White Eagle throughout the year. It is through your involvement and contributions that make the White Eagle possible.

This issue takes a different approach than previous issues. In the past most of our emphasis and feature articles have dealt with pre-partition Poland. This time we address a contemporary historic event which was brought to my attention by one of our members. The Katyn Massacres as well as other actions of Soviet Russia towards Poland during and immediately after World War II have growing significance in light of developments in Russia and the recent attitude of the Russian government towards these past events and towards Poland in general. In addition, these recent events in Russia need to be understood for one to obtain a full appreciation of today's significance of the Katyn Massacres for contemporary Poland.

With the fall of Communism the imperial state of the Soviet Union disintegrated into its various component parts with the Russian state emerging as a shadow of its former historic past. Many of its parts which had been conquered by Tsarist government going all the way back to Ivan the Terrible broke away to become independent nations. In addition, as Russia struggled to become a true democratic nation, its military strength slowly eroded as it faced growing financial problems. With the rise of Alexander Putin, however, Russia has embarked on a new aggressive road very reminiscent of Germany after World War I. Just like Germany, Russia's military and political power was never completely defeated in battle but collapsed from within and while attempting to become a democratic nation democracy only brought humiliation, poverty,

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corruption, and privation. As a consequence western style democracy has been discredited among the Russia people who have now reacted just as post World War I Germans did, desiring a return to a restoration of a strong central government dominated by a strong leader, restoration of their imperial glory of the past through the rebuilding of their military and the implementation of an aggressive nationalist foreign policy. An infusion of huge profits from the sale of oil and natural gas has made it possible for Putin to embark on this new nationalistic drive. In addition, one of the by products of this renewed drive for national greatness is a growth of the cult of Stalin.

This rebirth of a militant, authoritarian, and aggressively nationalistic Russia poses a growing threat to all the nations of Eastern Europe but especially to Poland. As a new member of N.A.T.O. and the strongest ally of the United States and Western Democracies in Eastern Europe, Poland stands in the forefront of possible resistance to future Russian reassertion of it power in this part of the continent. Because of this all Poles in Poland and throughout the world as well as all Americans need to fully understand what Russia is capable of doing when its nationalist, authoritarian tendencies are allowed to run amok. The Katyn Massacres was only a small part of what Russia did to Poland during World War II. It is estimated that approximately 1.7 million Poles were either executed, starved, worked to death or simply disappeared

into Siberia during or immediately after World War II as a consequence of a carefully planned program to Russify and Communize Poland by the Soviet government. We have frequently heard the words “never again” but the world needs to be reminded of what aggressive Russian nationalism is capable of doing and do what ever is necessary to insure that it indeed never does happen again

The Polish nobility were once called “The guardians of the Commonwealth.” This highlighted their role throughout Polish history. They were the protectors of the Polish nation and people and while they some times fulfilled this role poorly, their commitment and ideals could never be questioned. We, as the descendents of these noble clans and families, should continue to view ourselves in this same light. No matter what country we may now live in and no matter when our families may have left Poland, we are all still brothers in our souls, linked to our ancestral motherland with bounds of blood, history and tradition. We should, therefore, continue our ancestral role by assisting Poland in any way we can when she faces dangers. In the decades to come, if the current trends continue in Russia, Poland will again face the threat of aggressive Russian nationalism. Those of us of noble Polish ancestry living throughout the world need to be ready to come to her defense with what ever resources we may have at our disposal. ❀

**Solicitation of Articles**

All members are encouraged to submit articles for inclusion in the *White Eagle Journal*, especially those that relate to the history and culture of the Polish nobility as a class throughout the history of Poland. This appeal is especially addressed to all those members with an academic background in history or who have some expertise in some aspect of Polish history or culture. All articles should be limited to no more than three type-written pages. If you have any pictures to enhance your article please enclose these as well. All submissions longer than three pages will, if felt appropriate, will be included on the Foundation’s web journal and a brief preview article will be placed in an issue of the Journal alluding to its location and content. . If possible it would facilitate the editing of the Journal if articles could be sent as an email attachment or put on a cd-rom using Microsoft word. If this is not possible then submission of typed hard copy would be acceptable. Please submit any such articles to Dr. Felix W. v. L-Holewinski.

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## IN MEMORIAM

### ELFI VON DASSANOWSKY

The international press called her a “renaissance woman, and a “film pioneer,” and the *Cambridge Biographical Encyclopedia* refers to her as a “leading figure in postwar European culture.” Multitalented Austrian-born music cultural figure and producer, Elfi von Dassanowsky has died in Los Angeles on October 2 of heart failure. She was 83.

Born in Vienna, Elfi (Elfriede) von Dassanowsky was at age 15, the youngest woman to that date admitted to Vienna’s famed Academy (now University) of Music and Performing Arts as the protégé of famous German/French concert pianist, Emil von Sauer. Her talent attracted the interest of Austrian film director Karl Hartl who hired her to instruct his upcoming star Curd Jurgens piano for on-screen performances. Her studies and budding operatic career were, however, abruptly halted for extended labor service when she openly rejected membership in Nazi organizations. She was given a second chance when the Third Reich’s major studio UFA Berlin offered her a film contract in 1944, which she also perilously declined.

In 1946, Dassanowsky made her opera debut in Mozart’s *Marriage of Figaro* at St. Poelten and her wide soprano to mezzo range gained her rapid fame as she toured in leading opera and operetta roles. That year she also initiated and performed in concerts for the Allied High Command at the behest of General Emil Béthouart of France and the American Lt. General Geoffrey Keyes. Her greatest achievement is to be found in the realm of cinema. She remains one of the few women in history, and one of the youngest (at age 23), to co-found a major film studio (Belvedere Film Vienna). As film producer she helped revitalize Austrian cinema and discover major European film talent. She starred in theatrical dramas, comedies, and on the concert stage. She initiated several musical theater groups, was announcer for Allied Forces Broadcasting and the BBC, and toured Central Europe in a one-woman-show. A favored model for the Austrian painter Franz Xaver Wolf, her likeness now hangs in museums in Vienna, Berlin, Rio de Janeiro and in other public and private collections. In 1951 she became Casting Director and then Production Administrator for Phoebus International Film in Hamburg. Although the

company was short-lived and produced only one film, she actively paved the way for the German-French-U.K. co-productions of the late 1950s and the 1960s. An expert in the Paderewski piano technique, her musical pedagogy continued in Canada and New York, where she again gave master classes in piano.



In Hollywood in the 1960s, she resisted becoming a starlet and preferred to remain behind the camera in an industry that did not yet accept women in the leading production role she had in Europe. She subsequently achieved recognition as vocal coach for director/producer Otto Preminger and later became a successful Los Angeles businesswoman. In 1999, she re-established Belvedere Film as her Los Angeles-based-production company with her son, University of Colorado film professor and producer Robert von Dassanowsky, and was considered among the few senior active female film producers in the world. She executive produced the internationally award-winning short film, *Semmelweis* (2001), which portrays the work of Ignaz Semmelweis, a nineteenth-century physician who discovered the cure of Childbed Fever, and the feature comedy, *Wilson Chance* (2005). She was involved with several in progress production projects with her son at her passing. “With all her immense talents, she was gentle and encouraging to everyone. Many will forever recall the brightness she brought into any situation but also her immense desire to better the world,” commented her son.

Among her many honors, Dassanowsky received recognition by the cities of Los Angeles and Vienna, as well as by the State of California, which declared

*continue on page 7*

Poland in 1939, following the Nazis invasion of Poland in the west, hundreds of thousands of Polish Army prisoners were swept up by their invasion and among these prisoners were significant numbers of representatives of these two upper class segments of Polish societies. The officer's corps of the Polish Army, for example, consisted mainly of representative from these two classes. As a consequence, Stalin and the Politburo ordered the execution of approximately 27,000 such officers, Warden Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and other professionals such as lawyers, doctors, and intellectuals held as prisoners by the Russian Army. The intent was, of course, to eradicate an entire class within Poland who threatened their plans to dominate Poland, an approach also followed by the Nazis within the Polish territories they captured during their invasion. Records show that 90% of those Polish prisoners so condemned to death by the Russian government were in fact eventually executed. The bodies in the massive grave in the Katyn Forest were therefore only a small picture of the entire Russian pogrom of class and cultural genocide.

Despite the results of a Red Cross investigation conducted during World War II which clearly blamed Russia for the atrocity, the Soviet Union throughout World War II vigorously denied having any role in these mass murders and continued to blame the Nazis. When the Polish Government in Exile demanded further information concerning this event the Soviet government cut off diplomatic relations and put pressure on the other western powers to accept their explanation, using their support of the allied cause as leverage. Further when General Sikorski, head of the Polish government in exile continued to energetically push for fuller disclosure of the truth surrounding Katyn, he suddenly and mysteriously was killed in an accident, which many historians suggest was orchestrated by the Russian secret police, possibly assisted by elements of the Western European intelligence services. What followed was possibly even as outrageous and contemptible as the actual murders themselves, a cynical international conspiracy to cover up the truth of what really happened to the Polish upper-class prisoners in Russia.

Both Churchill and Roosevelt knew the truth of what happened in Poland and Katyn specifically, given their intelligence sources. Churchill admitted in private to Count Raczynski, Polish Ambassador, that Russia probably committed the mass murder but in public supported

Russia's claims to ensure Russia's continued military support in the war. Roosevelt's role in the cover up was even more cynical because he had more evidence available to him and knew more fully the truth nature of the massacre. Roosevelt had access to two official intelligence reports on the Katyn massacre which clearly contradicted the Russian version of the event. In 1944 Roosevelt assigned Navy Lieutenant Commander George Earle, his special emissary to the Balkans, to investigate Katyn. Using his contacts in Bulgaria and Romania, he concluded that the Soviet Union had indeed committed the massacre. Roosevelt, however, after consulting with the director of the Office of War Information, rejected its conclusion and ordered the report suppressed. When Earle continued to press for the publication of his report he was reassigned to American Samoa where he spent the rest of the War. Other reports eventually became available. Another government report in 1945 by two U.S. military officers was also suppressed and later in 1945 a further report given to Maj. Gen. Clayton Bissell, General George Marshall's assistant chief of staff for intelligence which also blamed the Russian was destroyed by General Marshall. In addition the Office of War Information, following the official line, pressured the news media to refrain from mentioning anything about Katyn and if they did to attribute it to the Nazis. Despite this many Polish – American groups continued to lobby for a fuller disclosure of the facts surrounding the Katyn Massacre. In particular Polish language radio stations in Detroit and Buffalo continued to broadcast the details of the executions. In response the Office of War Information threaten these stations with a revocation of their federal licenses unless they stopped broadcasting about Katyn.

With the end of World War II and the start of the Cold War one might expect a shift in government policy toward the Katyn Massacres, however, initially this did not occur. Radio Free Europe, for example, was told not to mention the Katyn Massacre in any of its Broadcasts into Eastern Europe. In addition, in Poland and throughout Soviet dominated eastern Europe communist government continued to take the Soviet position concerning Katyn. In Poland the government declared Katyn a "forbidden topic," which the media was to avoid. History textbooks made no mention of the incident, all public discussion was outlawed, and any monuments set-up privately were destroyed by the police.

In the United States it was not until there was more open public disclosures of additional information surrounding Katyn in the media and by various organizations that there was a gradual shift in the public's perceptions of Katyn. Finally, a United States Congressional investigation between 1951 and 1952 openly charged that the Poles at Katyn were killed by the Soviets and should be legally held responsible for these crimes. The controversy concerning Katyn, however, was not yet over. Powerful leftist liberal elements in the U.S. and Europe now took up the defense of the Soviet Union. Left wing intellectuals, especially historians rejected the Congressional report and all other reports and investigations that blamed Russia for Katyn and promoted the position that such ideas were a reflection of anti-Russian, anti-Communist, right wing extremist prejudice. Such leftist revisionist historians as Gabriel Kolka, through books and speeches blamed the Nazis for the Katyn Massacre and even praised Stalin for his humane behavior during World War II. This position was promoted in the liberal academic community and became the dominant view taught throughout many United States and European Universities.

Finally in the 1990's, with the fall of the Communism, the Russian government admitted that the Soviet Union was indeed responsible for the Katyn Massacres and extended an apology. It also released many documents disclosing the details of Stalin's and the Russian Politbureau's involvement in the executions. Finally no one could no longer deny Russian responsibility for this atrocity yet incredible as it may seem this did not end attempts to cover up what happened at Katyn and the other murder sites throughout Russia. Since left wing liberals could not now deny Soviet responsibility for these mass executions they now rationalized the reason for why Russia committed these crimes. They were now portrayed as minor aberrations caused by the understandable pressure and fog of war. They therefore, simply ignored the events when writing or teaching about World War II. There was also a shift in the attitude of the new Russian government under Alexander Putin toward Katyn and the related massacres. In 2003 a Russian government investigation of Katyn declared that they "found no evidence of genocide" and Putin in that same year refused to allow Polish government investigators to travel to Moscow to review 116 out of the 183 volumes related to Katyn gathered during a Russian investigation.

One can clearly see Russia's attitude toward the Katyn Massacre when traveling to the site of the original mass grave in the Katyn Forest. The site is difficult to get to with little attempt made to accommodate visitors. If you were not specifically aware of what you were looking for you would have a great deal of difficulty finding the site.. Further once you arrive you must first pass a massive Russian memorial filled with Communist propaganda to supposed 500 Russian workers who were killed by the Nazis at this site. In fact only 50 Russian workers were killed at that site. As you walk further you discover that the Polish memorial to the Polish officers executed there is pushed far to the back of the site and is actually away from the actual burial site of those murdered. It is clear that the current Russian government hopes play down any display or mention of this brutal crime. This attitude is not surprising since it reveals the revival of the strident, aggressive Russian nationalism that now casts its dark shadow over Eastern Europe.

The whole Katyn Massacre issue can be summarized in a quote from an article by Dr. Adam Scrupski who has written extensively on Katyn. Dr. Scrupski stated that ...

"Katyn is an example of the hypocrisy, duplicity and machination of international politics. A textbook case of the cynical manipulation and destruction of truth, morality and people, aimed at retaining absolute power for a despot. It represents a shameful illustration of the overt and covert support from other nations which colluded in the cover-up for a wide variety of reasons." 🇺🇸

*Ed note: The photograph on the front page is the National Katyn Memorial ([www.katynbaltimore.com](http://www.katynbaltimore.com)) located in Baltimore's Inner Harbor East. The National Katyn Memorial Foundation conducts an annual Memorial Commemoration in April. The photograph was taken by NKMF President Richard Poremski.*



February 2, 1996, “*Elfi Dassanowsky Day*.” She is the recipient of the Women’s International Center’s *Living Legacy Award*, the Austrian Decoration of Merit in Gold and was granted the title of Professor by the Austrian President Klestil. Additionally, she was honored with the UNESCO Mozart Medal for her promotion of world peace through music and the arts, and was awarded the Chevalier of the French “Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.” Over her long career, she attracted many admirers including conductors Herbert von Karajan, Georg Solti, singer Luciano Pavarotti, Diana, Princess of Wales, and the late Austrian film director Franz Antel. On the fiftieth anniversary of her multifaceted work in 1996, Elizabeth Taylor acknowledged Dassanowsky’s “fabulous career.”

While in Kona, Hawaii during July 2007, Dassanowsky suffered a life-threatening embolism. She was flown to Queens Hospital in Honolulu and part of her left leg was amputated. She was reported to be recovering well in rehabilitation in Los Angeles and was expected to continue her efforts in film production as well as UNESCO promotion. Celebrity amputee advocate, Heather Mills McCartney had encouraged and supported Dassanowsky’s recovery.

Elfi von Dassanowsky is survived by a son and daughter. A funeral Mass was held at on Tuesday October 9, 2007 at St. Charles Catholic Church, 10828 Moorpark Street, North Hollywood, CA. Burial will be in Vienna. 🌹

## GIEDROYC MEMORIAL PLAQUE UNVEILED



A Memorial Plaque to Prince Mikolaj- Michael son of Antonij- Jusef Giedroyc of Lithuania (1848- 1933) was unveiled on 9 June 2007 at Kharkiw, Ukraine in cooperation with the Ambassador of Polish Republic in Ukraine Pan Jacek Kluchowski and Consul General of Polish Republic in Kharkiw Pan Grzegorz Serochinski as well as Polish - Ukrainian cultural and art workers and members of the Giedroyc - clan. Prince Mikolaj- Michael was one of the representatives of an ancient Grand Ducal Lithuanian clan Giedraitis/ Giedroyc. The genealogy of the family comes from Julian Dowsprung (840/908- a.d.)- the first ruling Prince of Lithuania.

The family is engraved in history of Byelorussia, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine and Russia. Family slogan: *Vitam impendere vero* - the truth I consolidate with life - Family coat of arms: Centaurus (upper field) and scarlet rose (lower field) on the common shield colored silver or gold in frame of princely mantle. 🌹

## NIKOLAJ ANTONOWICH GIEDROYC

BY ALEXANDER PRINCE GIEDROYC

Nikolaj Antonowich Giedroyc was born in Tuschkowo estate not far from Moscow. Together with his father and brothers, Eugenij and Viktor, they received recognition of their princely title in the Russian empire by the Czar's decree on July 24, 1878 as a representative "...of ancient Lithuanian-Polish noble family...". He graduated from the Saint-Petersburg Academy of Arts. A quote by the famous Russian painter I.E. Repin "...Nikolaj Antonowich is a great sculptor himself and in all professional seriousness knows arts...".



He had his own rich gathering of pictures and sculptures. Thanks to the high rank of his clan he had a significant position in noble circles of the Russian Empire. He was famous for his maecenas and social activity. He supported famous artists such as I.E. Repin, V.V. Wereschagin, K. Wroblewski, V. Mate, K. Weschilow, I. Gincbourg, I. and M. Antokolskie, Korowin and others. Thanks to his connections and personal activity, donations from his personal collection and other funds he was instrumental in the creation of museums of Art in Kherson (1912), Mariupol' (1913), Ekaterinoslaw/Dnepropetrowsk (1914), Nikolaew (1914), as well as art section in Elisawetgrad (1913-1914), Arts study group in Yalta (1914-1916), and the circle of useful arts "Sreda" in Sewastopol (1912-1914).

After the October Revolution in 1917, Nikolaj Antonowich moved to Kharkiw, Ukraine where his cousin Otton Giedroyc lived. He spent the end of his days working in Kharkiw University Museums. During this period he manages to help Ukrainian historian D.I. Yawornitsky to complete the construction of Dnepropetrowsk Historical Museum (1921-1922), finding a place for Museum of Arts gathering in Sumy. He also works on I.E. Repin Museum in Chuguew, Kharkiw region (1913-1914, 1928).



In October 1930, at the age of 76, he was arrested by UPO OGPY, including seizure of his valuables, including his personal correspondence with art and cultural personages of that era. On December 30, 1933, in his house at 17 Khersonskaya Street in Kharkiw, N.A. Giedroyc died. He is buried in Kharkow, Pawlow Cemetery. 🕊

*Giedroyc Clan 2007*



## THE ORDER OF ST. STANISLAS



On May 5, 2007, an investiture was held, of Knights, Dames, and Squires to The Order of St. Stanislas at the Historic Mission Inn, in Riverside, California. Among the postulants honored to receive Knighthood, was the P.N.A.F.'s own Rik Sulima-Suligowski Fox, who was awarded the Knights Cross, in recognition of his efforts of using his historic Winged Hussar portrayals to raise Polish Historic awareness and Culture, in addition to his duties as Vice-President of the Southern California Polish-American Congress. 🇵🇱



The Dinner Night of the Order of St. Stanislas was held at the Victory Services Club, Marble Arch - London on November 17, 2007. Among those in attendance were [l. to r]:

Chev. Norman Offield - New Chancellor for Europe, Chev. Col. Jan Kwiecinski, Chev. Mark Hamilton, Dame Kinga Foeller, Chev. Count Zbigniew dei Marcovaldi, and Dr. Norbert Wojtowicz. 🇵🇱

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS, NOTES, AND CORRESPONDENCE

*IRENA UDERSKA, ASSOCIATE EDITOR AND LONDON CORRESPONDENT*

**Germany** - Prince Wilhelm-Karl of Prussia, a grandson of Germany's last emperor, died April 11, the organization that he headed said. He was 85.

The Johanniter order, which the prince led for several decades, said Wilhelm-Karl was the last surviving grandson of Kaiser Wilhelm II, who abdicated and went into exile after World War I.

Wilhelm-Karl died on Monday, the knightly order said in a statement late Wednesday, but it did not give the cause of death.

Born in Potsdam, outside Berlin, he became the head of the Johanniter in 1958 and presided over an expansion of its charitable work, supporting hospitals, clinics and kindergartens.

The order is now headed by his son, Prince Oskar of Prussia. Wilhelm-Karl's funeral was held at Berlin's Protestant cathedral. 🌹

**Luxembourg** - Princess Marie-Adelaide, sister of Luxembourg's former Grand Duke Jean, has died aged 82, the Grand Duchy announced on Thursday. Her death late Wednesday, February 2, plunged the Luxembourg court "into great sadness," the royal household said in a statement.

Born on May 21 1924 in the Berg chateau in the north of tiny Luxembourg, Marie-Adelaide Louise Therese Wilhelmine was the third child of Grande-Duchess Charlotte, who reigned in Luxembourg from 1919 to 1964, and of Prince Felix.

The princess married Count Carl-Josef Henckel de Donnersmarck, with whom she had four children. Her brother, Grand Duke Jean abdicated in 2000 and was succeeded by his son, the current Grand Duke Henri. 🌹

**Russia** - A Moscow court postponed until 11th May hearings of an appeal by a descendant of the Romanov family requesting that the murder of the last Russian tsar and his family be declared political repression.

"Consideration of the core appeal has been put off until 11th May because the prosecutor could not come to court," an official in the Moscow City Court said, that the murder of the last Russian tsar and his family be declared political repression.

"Consideration of the core appeal has been put off until 11th May because the prosecutor could not come to court," an official in the Moscow City Court said, adding that the prosecutor was in the hospital. Both the Prosecutor General's Office and lawyers for Grand Duchess Maria have appealed against a November ruling of the Tverskoy Court, which ordered prosecutors to revise Maria Romanov's request to rehabilitate the tsar and his family, killed in 1918, as victims of political repressions rather than murder victims.

Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra, their teenage son Alexei and four daughters were executed together with a doctor and three servants in Yekaterinburg, the Urals, a year after the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917.

The Tverskoy Court also said exoneration of the royal family was a matter for criminal rather than civil proceedings. Prosecutors have said the death of the royal family was "a result of premeditated murder." "We have no legal reasons to recognise Nicholas II and his family as victims of political repressions," a prosecutor said.

But Maria Romanov's lawyer, German Lukyanov, said the executions were not murder but "political repression caused by social and class motivations." "The civil lawsuit presented evidence of the death of the family and documents identifying the reason for the death of Emperor Nicholas II as execution by firing squad," the lawyer said.

The nation's last monarch, Nicholas II and his family were reburied in the former imperial capital St. Petersburg in 1998, 80 years after being massacred by the Bolsheviks. 🌹

**United Kingdom** - On December 20, Elizabeth II, 81, passed the mark set by her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria as the oldest reigning Monarch. 🌹

## POLISH AMERICANS FAMILY HISTORY SLANDERED

BY JUDGE THEODORE P. JAKUBOWSKI (RETIRED)

The paramount deficiency in Poland, American Polonia, and things Polish in general is the low public image (and low self-image) we are stuck with. Some Polish-American writers have it all wrong. After 44 years of Pulaski and Kosciuszko I could scream! The American public really couldn't give a damn; sorry, but that's true; go test them if you doubt what I am saying.



The supposed peasant origin of Polish-Americans - a self-denigrating piece of propaganda that we stupidly accept and parrot was put in motion by the Partitioning Powers at the Congress of Vienna to help destroy Poland psychologically. It simply is not true, as even a superficial reading of Polish history will show.

Yes, upon arrival in America the immigrants were virtually destitute, and some worked in "agriculture," - which was not defined. However, three-quarters of the Polish immigrants were from families, albeit poverty stricken after four or five generations of conquest, sub-mission, discrimination, oppression, exile, beating, torture and death, had been members of the nobility.

Under the twisted logic of the Russian, Austrian and Prussian cultural genocide, even the grandchildren of King Jan Sobieski were painted with the peasantry brush.

The true peasants - illiterate, apolitical, dirty, primitive, and squalid and quarrelsome had a difficult time undertaking the voyage to America. Only a generation separated - rated from serfdom, they had practically no experience with travel or the outside world.

One of the Potocki family, Wacław, said that even an educated peasant remains a peasant: "niepodobna przerobic psa na rysia." It was incumbent upon the nobility to foster the noble soul - meaning above all the readiness to take up arms to defend the Motherland. During the 19th Century revolts against the partitioning powers the peasantry had no qualms about helping the invaders apprehend the patriots.

There is no more disheartening thing than to hear a seemingly educated and substantial Polish-American bleat that "there's nothing wrong with being a peasant" when a glance in the heraldry-genealogy references turns up; people who originated in the same region as his grand-parents, bearing the same family name, who were distinguished by service in the military, clergy or administration - and many of whom were recognized as szlachta by official noble organizations, or even by one of the three partitioning powers.

Even families with prosaic names not ending in "-ski" or "-wicz" show up often in the rolls of nobility. For instance, a certain Pan Socha (plow) is listed as the person who reorganized Lwow after an epidemic of the plague.

The older generations, first and second, might have any inkling that we are not all peasants, but it will take the better educated, assimilated, objective and dispassionate but imbued with the spirit that one's identity depends upon knowledge of one's roots, to take the giant step of recognizing their true noble origin. We can see an upsurge in these times of interest and activity regarding Polish heraldry and genealogy.

The Polish nasal vowels caused most family names to be garbled - when people only recorded the sound as best they could, or when a name passed into a different language, with different rules of stress and spelling. Such common sense

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clues from oral history - like dialects, locations, employment, military service, and even physical configuration and facial resemblances can overcome a disparity in names.

The advances in science concerning genetic or DNA identification hold out tremendous promise for solving many genealogical puzzles heretofore now considered unsolvable. In one case, researchers successfully traced the semi-legendary Amazons to living females in one district in Mongolia.

I can testify that in my own case, my stock went up immensely among my Yale College and Yale Law School classmates when they were advised of my ancestry.

Personalizing history and reconnecting with one's ancestors is the best recipe to improve the lot of Polonia. 🇵🇱

## DUES AND DONATIONS

Frank J. Aleksandrowicz, OH	\$25
Ann M. Ashbaugh, MS	\$15
Dr. Roger Chylinski-Polubinski, MD	\$43
Stanley L. Daniloski, MD	\$100
William Dluzniewski, NJ	\$25
Kenneth Fedzin, UK	\$45
Roy G. Gentz, WI	\$12
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Roger F. Krentz, WI	\$25
Walter Markowski, Jr.	\$15
John & Elizabeth Messick, CA	\$25
Dr. Lawrence C. Mozan, CA	\$147
David B. Porteous, MI	\$152
Mr. & Mrs. D. Riggs, RI	\$150
Marybeth Sulkowski, RI	\$25
Irena Uderska, UK	\$100
Stanislas M.A. Yassukovitch, France	\$150
Roger Zavadoski, VA	\$72

## ROYAL CONFRATERNITY OF SAINT TEOTONIO

George Hrabia de Doliwa Helon, our Australian representative was appointed to rank of Grand Cross of Justice of the Portugese Royal Confraternity of Saint Teotonio at a ceremony held on May 26 at Palmerston North, New Zealand. He also has received appointments as Member of Great Honor of the Imperial Nguyen Dynasty of Vietnam, appointment to rank of Commander of the Imperial Order of the Dragon of Annam, and bestowal of Imperial Vietnamese Nobility and title of Marquis. All three of these were issued by the authority for the Crown Council of the Imperial Nguyen Dynasty of Vietnam and executed by His Imperial Highness Prince Regent Nhiep Chanh Nguyen Phuc Bui Chanah of Vietnam.



[l. to r.] Hrabia Michael Subritzky-Kusza, PNA-New Zealand; RCST Australian Delegate - Hrabia Wieslaw George Zielinski de Doliwa, RCST Postulant from USA - Dr. William Count Gulgowski-Doliwa, Grand Cross of Justice.

