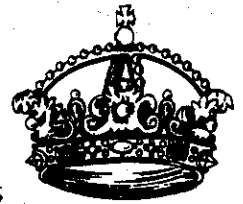




# WHITE EAGLE

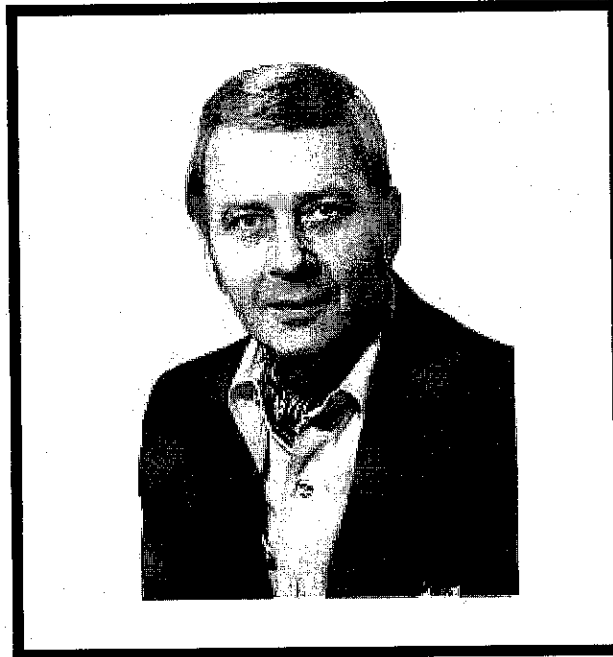
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FALL/WINTER 2008

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## CHEVALIER LEONARD J. SULIMA-SULIGOWSKI 1928-2008



On Thursday, June 19, 2008, at 6:25 p.m. at New York City's Bellevue Hospital, Leonard Joseph Suligowski passed away from complications of a stroke occurring on the evening of Monday, June 16. Born on July 1, 1928 in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn, New York, he was the son of Chester and Julia (Wojno) Suligowski. He is survived by his son Rik Fox. Services were held in Greenpoint and in Los Angeles.

Chevalier Suligowski was one of the very few Polish heraldic artists in America. He was the most respected Polish heraldic artist of the 20th century after his countless years of research on the subject became more widely known. For many years he had been the Director of Heraldry and the College of Heraldry for The Polish Nobility Association Foundation headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, having been affiliated with them since 1975. He also served for many years as the editor of the *White Eagle*. Upon stepping down from both positions he was given the title of *Emeritus*. In addition to his work as editor of the *White Eagle* he authored several short stories and articles, and contributed significantly to the *Nobility of the Polish Commonwealth*.

During his tenure with the P.N.A.F. he was the recipient of the following Chivalric awards: Knight's Grand Cross in both Royal Order of Piast and Royal Order of Jagiello, both with the titles of Chevalier. In addition, he was awarded the Polonia Restituta, Officer First Class, from the past President-in-Exile for his contributions to the promotion of the arts and culture associated with Polish heraldry. He also held the title of Knight of Grace with the Sovereign Hospitaller Order of St. John, Knights of Malta.

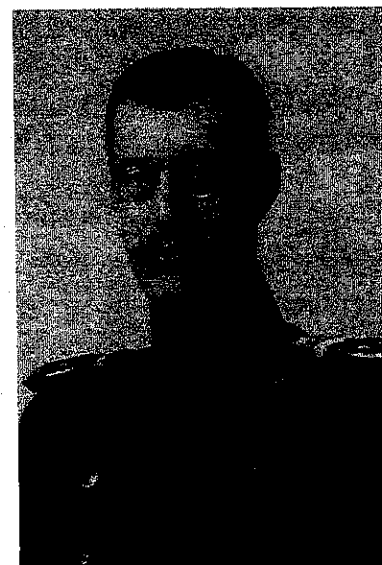
*continued on page 3*

## THE LAST KING OF LITHUANIA

Mindaugas II of Lithuania was elected King of Lithuania, on July 11, 1918. He never assumed the crown, as German authorities declared the election invalid.

Born on May 30, 1864 in Monaco, as HSH Prince Wilhelm Karl Florestan Gero Crescentius of Urach, Count of Württemberg, he was the elder son of Wilhelm, 1st Duke of Urach (the head of a morganatic branch of the Royal House of Württemberg), and his second wife, Princess Florestine of Monaco, occasional acting Regent of Monaco (daughter of Prince Florestan I of Monaco).

At the age of four Wilhelm succeeded his father as Duke of Urach. He was born and spent much of his childhood in Monaco, where his mother, Florestine, often managed the government while her nephew, Prince Albert I of Monaco, went on long oceanographic explorations. Through his mother, Wilhelm was the legitimate heir to the throne of Monaco. Wilhelm's cousin Prince Albert I of Monaco had only one son, Louis, who was unmarried and had no legitimate children. The French Republic, however, was reluctant to see a German prince ruling Monaco. Under French pressure, Monaco passed a law in 1911 recognizing Louis's illegitimate daughter, Charlotte, as heir; she was adopted in 1918 by her grandfather Prince Albert I. Wilhelm was relegated to second in line to Monaco's throne. After the accession of Prince Louis II in 1922, Wilhelm renounced his rights of succession to the throne of Monaco in favour of distant French cousins in 1924.



In 1913 Wilhelm was one of several princes considered for the throne of Albania; he was supported by Catholic groups in the north, but in 1914 Prince William of Wied was selected instead. In 1917, as a newly-retired general Wilhelm sounded out the possibility of being made Duke of Lorraine after the war was over. In 1918, he accepted the short-lived invitation to reign as Mindaugas II of Lithuania.

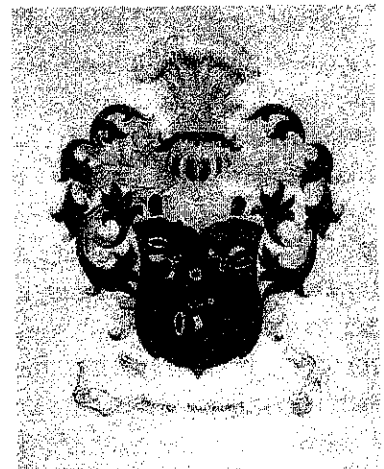
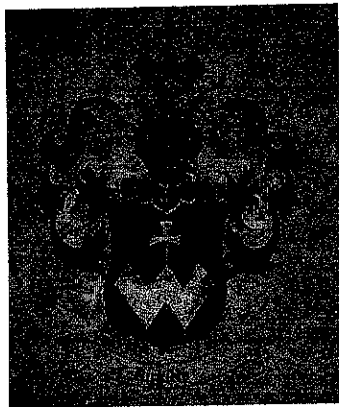
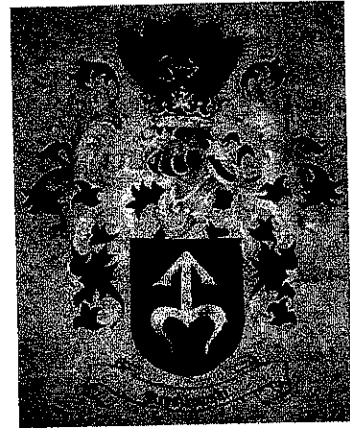
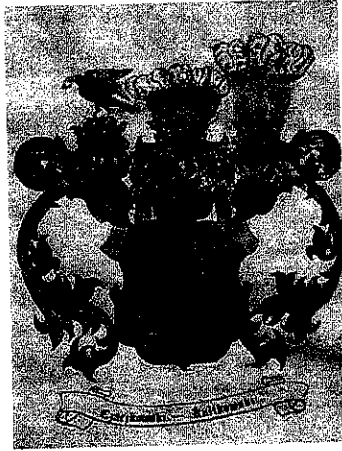
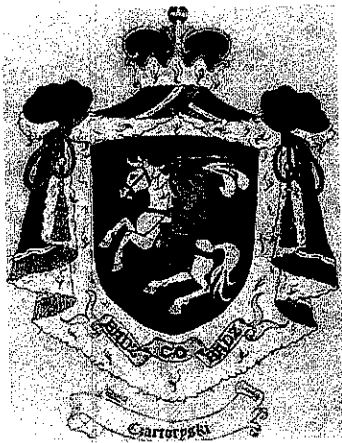
Typical of his family, Wilhelm entered the Württemberg army in the 1890s and was a professional general by the outbreak of World War I in 1914, commanding the 26th Infantry Division. Until November 1914 they were part of the German assault on France and then Belgium, where Wilhelm's sister-in-law was queen. In December 1914, the division fought in the battle to cross the Bzura river in Poland. From June to September, 1915 the division moved from north of Warsaw to positions close to the Nieman River, an advance of hundreds of miles in the campaign in which Poland was taken. In October-November 1915, it took part in the assault on Serbia, moving from west of Belgrade to Kraljevo in less than a month. At Ypres in Belgium from December 1915 to July 1916, the division was largely destroyed in the Somme battles from August to November 1916, holding the Schwaben Redoubt (Württemberg is part of Swabia). Wilhelm retired as a general on January 5, 1917.

Wilhelm of Urach descended from the Lithuanian Jagiellon dynasty, among which were Kings: Casimir IV and Wladislaw Jagiello I of Poland and Vladislaus II of Bohemia and Hungary, as well as Lithuanian monarchs Algirdas and Gediminas and several medieval princes of Plock, Vitebsk and Smolensk.

On June 4, 1918, the Council of Lithuania voted to invite Wilhelm to become the king of a newly independent Lithuania. Wilhelm agreed and was elected on July 11, 1918, taking the name Mindaugas II. According to Wilhelm's agreement with the Council of Lithuania, he had to live in Lithuania and speak its language.

*continued on page 7*

THE HERALDIC ART OF LEONARD J. SULIGOWSKI  
A SELECT RETROSPECTIVE



## MINDAUGAS II *(continued from page 4)*

From the beginning Wilhelm's reign was controversial. Four of the twenty members of the Council of Lithuania left in protest and Germany did not recognize Wilhelm as king. Wilhelm never had the chance to visit Lithuania, remaining instead at Lichtenstein Castle, his home south of Stuttgart; however he did begin to learn the Lithuanian language. Within a few months of his election, it became clear that Germany would lose World War I, and on November 2, 1918, the Council of Lithuania reversed its decision.

Wilhelm was married twice. In 1892, he married Duchess Amalie in Bavaria (1865-1912), daughter of Karl-Theodor, Duke in Bavaria, a niece of Empress Elisabeth of Austria, and a direct descendant of the Lithuanian Princess, Louise Caroline Radvila of Biržai. Nine children were born of this marriage:

Princess Marie Gabriele of Urach (1893-1908)

Princess Elisabeth of Urach (1894-1962) who married Prince Karl of Liechtenstein (1878-1955), an uncle of Franz Joseph II of Liechtenstein, and had issue.

Princess Karola of Urach (1896-1980)

Prince Wilhelm of Urach (1897-1957), who married Elisabeth Theurer (1899-1988) and had two daughters, Elisabeth and Marie Christine.

Karl Gero, Duke of Urach (1899-1981), who married Countess Gabriele of Waldburg of Zeil and Trauchburg (1910-2005). No issue.

Princess Margarete of Urach (1901-1975)

Prince Albrecht of Urach (1903-1969). Married first Rosemary Blackadder and second Ute Waldschmidt (divorced both of them and had issue by both). His daughter, Marie-Gabrielle (aka Mariga), was the first wife of Desmond Guinness, diplomat and artist turned journalist and expert on the Far East.

Prince Eberhard of Urach (1907-1969), married Princess Iniga of Thurn and Taxis (born 1925) and had issue; including Karl Anselm and Wilhelm Albert, the current Duke of Urach and pretender to the Crown of Lithuania.

Princess Mechtilde of Urach (1912-2001), who married Friedrich Karl, Prince of Hohenlohe-Waldenburg-Schillingsfürst and had issue.

Though Wilhelm's first wife had died in 1912, two of her ancestors had been elected to rule the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 1700s: August III the Saxon and Stanisław Leszczyński. This may have been a contributory factor to his election as king of Lithuania.

In 1924, Wilhelm married Princess Wiltrud of Bavaria (1884-1975), daughter of King Ludwig III of Bavaria. This marriage was childless and he died in Rapallo, Italy on March 24, 1928.



*This article was adapted from Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia.*



*Family portrait taken in 1908*

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS, NOTES, AND CORRESPONDENCE

IRENA UDESKA, ASSOCIATE EDITOR AND LONDON CORRESPONDENT

**Amsterdam** - Nine members of the Dutch Royal family, including Crown Prince Willem-Alexander, attended the memorial service of Erik Hazelhoff Roelfzema, who was known as the Soldier of Orange. The memorial service occurred on what would have been his 91st birthday and was held at Wassenaar's village church. 🌹

**Denmark**- Prince Joachim married French-born Marie Cavallier on May 24, 2008 in a tradition-steeped ceremony in an ancient church.

The second marriage for the second son of Queen Margrethe II and Prince Henrik of Denmark took place in the tiny village of Moegeltoender in southern Jutland, an enclave of just 895 people. Following the ceremony a reception was held in Schackenborg Castle. 🌹

**Monaco** -



Prince Albert II celebrated his 50th birthday on March 14, 2008. 🌹

**Norway** - Crown Prince Haakon traveled to Mongolia on 3-6 November, in his capacity as Goodwill Ambassador for UNDP. 🌹



**Great Britain** - Charles, Prince of Wales, and Duke of Cornwall, turned 60 on November 14 and the event was celebrated with the release of this official portrait.

She is so fiercely proud of her Polish heritage that even when she married one of Britain's heart-throb actors, Arabella Zamoyska kept her maiden name. Now the former "It-girl" - who was pursued by the Marquess of Blandford before marrying Oliver Tobias, with whom she has a four-year-old son, Luke - is standing up for Poles who have emigrated to Britain.

"Frankly, we should be lucky to have such an influx of hard-working, talented, respectful and cheerful people coming to this country," she stated.

"Someone like my father Tomasz, who has been here since 1943, has worked all his life and contributed hugely to this country, including offering the statue of General Sikorski in Portland Place."

A one-time head girl at Heathfield School and former model, Arabella, 32, who these days lives quietly with Oliver in rural Hampshire, adds: "It's time the UK gave the Poles a chance." 🌹

*Reprinted from London Daily Mail, January 31, 2008*

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## THE WRITINGS OF LEONARD J. SULIGOWSKI A SELECT RETROSPECTIVE

### Writer, Artist, Movie Actor... Meet Our Chaplain!

With this issue we would like to take the opportunity to introduce the membership to one of our trustees - a man of God and of peace who has faced the brutalities of war and its aftermath, but has learned to live and accept the realities of today. With the help of divine inspiration, he has been able to share some of that inspiration in the form of perceptive writings, and through his talent for painting. Through the arts and literature he has provided us with his special insight on how to deal with the realities of today. I write of Monsignor John Abucewicz, (ret.) author, painter and chaplain of the Polish Nobility Association Foundation (since 1976)-who, with all these accomplishments, even found time to be a movie actor, appearing in the film "Sands of Iwo Jima" with John Wayne!

Msgr. John was born of Polish immigrant parents in 1920 in the town of Lowell, Mass. (also the home of Mr. Ed McMahon, famous from Johnny Carson's "Tonight" show), where he attended St. Stanislaus parochial school. This was followed by his graduation from Lowell High (Ed McMahon graduated a year later) and subsequently his matriculation from Boston College and entry into St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Mass. Upon ordination in August of 1944, he was assigned to St. John's Polish parish in Salem, where he served as assistant for four years, at which time he was transferred to St. Hedwig's parish in East Cambridge. He had been there only eight short months when he was released by Bishop Cushing to serve as chaplain in the U. S. Navy, entering as a Lt. Jr. grade. After twenty-two years of service (1949-1971) he was separated with the rank of full Commander.

It was while he was in the service, stationed at Camp Pendleton, California with a Marine detachment, that he was asked to take part in the movie "Sands of Iwo Jima." He played the part, naturally, of a Catholic chaplain, and was seen anointing a wounded Marine. His tour of service took him to both the Korean and Vietnam campaigns.

After his retirement from the Navy he had several options open to him to continue as a man of the cloth. But he stated to Cardinal Law that as long as he could breathe and move, he would offer needed, in whatever parish designated, even though he was officially retired. So, for the next twenty-two years he faithfully fulfilled the duties of a "Good Samaritan," offering his strength and assistance so that others of the cloth would not have to undergo the stresses of clerical life under difficult circumstances. Due to the Archdiocese of Boston's difficulties with the shortage of priests, Msgr. John was able at last to return to his home parish in Lowell Mass, where he served diligently, and for the 18 years prior to his full retirement he had been designated its pastor.

Now Msgr. John has been able to devote his free time to his hobby, painting. Becoming interested while yet in the Navy, he considers himself a rank amateur; however, in the past 40 years he has painted some 18 original Madonna renderings and over 100 additional paintings. Considering he's also penned three novels, he has been able to fill his time in a very productive manner.

His involvement in the field of painting came via a quirky introduction by a family he knew while in the Navy. One evening, after dinner, the family members brought out some oil painting accouterments and stated, "Now, we're all going to paint!" Msgr. John openly admitted that he couldn't even draw a straight line, but the family merely shrugged it off. After receiving some words of encouragement and some simple tips, he began to paint his simple rendition of a still-life, and found, to his amazement and enjoyment, that it didn't turn out half bad after all... From that moment on the blood of the masters began to churn and swell within him, and after many attempts and much perseverance, he became hooked on the medium. Since then at every opportunity he has been producing masterpieces (as it is in the mind of every painter, eyeing his finished work). He has applied the

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**SULIGOWSKI WRITINGS - RETROSPECTIVE** (continued from page 9)
 

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renderings of the Madonna on personal Christmas cards he sends out to his close friends.

In addition to his achievements as a painter, Msgr. John has also had two novels published, *Fool's White* and *A Seamless Garment*. The proceeds from the second book were donated to the blind children in Poland and to the "Home of Peace," a girls' orphanage in Jerusalem, staffed by Polish nuns. He recently completed his third, "Cast the First Stone," the story of Mary Magdalene; it is now in the hands of a literary agent, with very good prospects of being published soon.

As if this weren't enough, Msgr. John also wrote a play, "Revolutionnaire Extraordinaire," the story of Nicholas Copernicus, back in 1973, commemorating the 500th anniversary of Copernicus. And, finally, he has authored a musical history of the city of Lowell, called "Lowelliana", covering the Third Industrial Revolution location. Will wonders never cease??

Your editor first made the acquaintance of Msgr. John in 1975, through a strange set of circumstances involving Polish heraldry. After an exchange of letters, a package arrived from Msgr. John and inside was found a most rare and remarkable item: an original Polish verification of the clan Radwan, issued by the (then) Polish Heraldic Office. The rarity lay in the fact that it was printed, not on paper, but on a "chamois skin," and was still legible from the 19th century! There were some additional notations written in the margin in Russian, which I was able to have translated and returned to Msgr. John. In all my years dealing with mid-European heraldry, I have yet to come upon another type of arms verification such as this one! Msgr. John obtained it from an aunt as a result of a trip to Poland.

Since 1976, Msgr. John has been the spiritual guiding light of the Polish Nobility Association Foundation as its chaplain. He has subsequently been honored by Dr. Roger Prince Chylinski-Polubinski with the awards of the Royal Order of Piast, and the Sovereign Hospitaller Order of St. John. He is also the recipient of the order of Polonia Restituta.

As far as Msgr. John is able to recall, he is the only Navy chaplain ever to celebrate Mass underwater. In 1957, while attached to the naval re-training command in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, he was invited by the captain of the submarine, U. S. S. Albacore, for a training cruise at sea. While the sub was running beneath the waves, Mass was being celebrated aboard what was then the fastest nuclear powered boat the Navy had. This submarine is now a museum at Portsmouth.

On a much lighter note, no story would be complete without recalling at least one anecdote from Msgr. John's earlier artistic career in 1960, while he was stationed at the Bethesda Maryland Naval Hospital. It seems a nurse had her watercolors on exhibit, and invited Msgr. John to show some of his works as well. Msgr. John made up some announcements and had sent one to President John Kennedy, knowing full well that the president was a true patron of the arts. Some three days later a letter arrived from the White House, and the contents explained that "The President and Mrs. Kennedy sincerely congratulate you on the occasion of the birth of your baby!"

Well, after the initial shock of the moment wore off, the humor of it all took its effect. During the laughter, a thought crossed Msgr. John's mind. This mail mix-up made him think of the response the White House must have sent to the "other individual," who must have received something to the effect of offering congratulations "on your many works, and hope you have many abstracts." Everyone at the hospital had gotten a kick out of this comedy of errors and will no doubt long remember it maybe even the poor White House mailroom aide who is perhaps mulling over this faux pas to this day, and quite possibly wondering why he is still in the mailroom, with no apparent promotion in sight, undoubtedly moaning, "Where did I go wrong???"

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**SULIGOWSKI WRITINGS - RETROSPECTIVE** *(continued from page 10)***A Brief History of Lithuania**

Tracing the history of Lithuania, we must go back as far as the glacial period, during which an extension of the east European plain began to be formed. It became dotted with lakes and rivers at first. The highest elevation reached about 300 meters (approx. 960 feet). Most of the Baltic shoreline came to be separated from the open sea by a long, narrow strip of sand dunes called the Courland Spit, and the body of water that formed behind it became the Courland Lagoon. Klaipeda (Memel), Lithuania's only commercial port, is situated where the lagoon meets the open sea. Lithuania's chief river is the Neman (or Nemunas).

The Lithuanians, along with the Latvians, are the survivors of the Baltic family of peoples who lived in the region in ancient times and traded with the Romans, primarily in the product of lumber. Lithuania emerged as a united nation under Grand Duke Mindaugas, who ruled from 1236 to 1263. His successors gradually expanded their rule into what is now Belarus and Ukraine, founding an empire that extended east as far as the Dnieper River basin and south almost to the shores of the Black Sea.

In 1386, Grand Duke Jagiello (Jogaila) married Jadwiga of Poland, accepted Latin Christianity, and assumed the Polish crown as King Wladyslaw II. Under the Jagiellonian dynasty Poland and Lithuania established a connection that lasted more than four centuries. In 1410 they won a major victory over the Teutonic Knights at the Battle of Grunwald (Tannenberg), halting the Knights' eastward expansion and thereby hastening their decline. In 1569 Poland and Lithuania, confronted in the east by the growing power of Muskovy, strengthened the ties between the two peoples by forming the Union of Lublin, which created a new federation with an elective monarchy. Under the reorganized Commonwealth, however, Lithuania lost its separate institutions and gradually was submerged into Poland as a province.

In the 18th century the Polish Kingdom itself was divided among Russia, Prussia and Austria by the partitions of 1772, 1793, and 1797. As a result of this last partition and the post-Napoleonic settlement at the Congress of Vienna (1815), most of Lithuania was absorbed by Russia, and the area along the Baltic coast was given to Prussia. Following the Russian Revolution of 1905, a resurgence of national feeling developed among the Lithuania population, and after the collapse of the Russian Empire Lithuania regained its independence on February 18, 1918. It began its life as a democracy, but after a coup in 1926 authoritarian rule was set up under Antanas Smetona, who remained President until Lithuania was forcibly annexed by the U.S.S.R. in 1940.

Finally, in September, 1991, after Boris Yeltsin's reformers had gained the upper hand in Moscow, the U.S.S.R. recognized the independence of Lithuania. As with most of the former Soviet Republics, Lithuania has experienced difficulty in making the transition from authoritarianism to democracy, and from a socialist to a free-market economy.

The voters complained of unemployment, high prices, and fuel shortages, and when new elections were held in October and November 1992, the Democratic Labor (former Communist) Party defeated Sajudis. Its leader, Algirdas Brazauskas, replaced Landsbergis as president in February, 1993. The last remaining Russian troops were withdrawn from Lithuania.

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**SULIGOWSKI WRITINGS - RETROSPECTIVE** (continued from page 11)

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**From the Editor's Desk:**

In just a few short weeks the 20th century will yield to the 21st, and this issue of the Journal will pass into history as the last of the century. So many advances have been made in the sciences of medicine, electronics and space travel. Much, too, has been accomplished by the PNAF during this decade. We have learned much about our Mother countries since the fall of Communism, especially about the "Golden Age" (1395-1795), when the Commonwealth of Poland and Lithuania was a major player on the European stage. Poland's future is now more secure by its becoming a member of NA TO, thanks to the efforts of U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski on its behalf.

The national emblem of Poland, the White Eagle, has once more emerged proudly, wearing its Royal Golden Crown. By combining Poland's past with its future, a new insight will be gained not only by its native-born, but by Polish-Americans who for so long did not have opportunities available to learn of their heritage, until the wonders of modern technology made it more readily accessible.

It is not surprising to note that requests for family histories and Heraldic Name Searches have escalated over the past several years. We at the PNAF feel this tells us that you "really care." We shall endeavor, therefore, to continue to assist all who seek To Learn, To Preserve and To Share their cultural heritage. - *Leonard J. Suligowski.*

*"Aby nam sie dobrze dzialo!"*

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**LEONARD JOSEPH SULIMA-SULIGOWSKI**

**1928-2008**

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