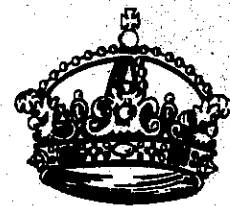




# WHITE EAGLE

**JOURNAL OF THE POLISH NOBILITY ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION**  
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**SPRING/SUMMER 2001**

**[HTTP://WWW.GEOCITIES.COM/ATHENS/ATRIUM/9615/INDEX.HTML](http://www.geocities.com/athens/atrium/9615/index.html)**

## Reception on Behalf of The Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation

On Thursday, May 10, 2001, a cocktail reception to benefit the Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation was held at the residence of the Romanian Ambassador, H. E. Ambassador and Mrs. Sorin Ducaru. In attendance were H.R.H. the Crown Princess Margarita of Romania and H.S.H. Prince Radu of Hohenzollern-Veringen. Also present were many of Washington, D.C.'s notables. Representing the Polish Nobility Association Foundation were Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Riggs, of Newport, R.I.; Mr. Frank Cleveland, of Ireland; Mrs. Adele Pratt-Simpler, from Maryland; and Dr. Roger Chyliński-Połubiński, from Maryland.

The purpose of the event was to raise awareness and funds for the Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation for the Special Fund for Children and the Young Talents Fellowship program. In addition to the event in Washington, a benefit dinner was held in Boston earlier in the month.

H.R.H. the Crown Princess Margarita and H.S.H. Prince Radu greeted guests in the receiving line, along with Ambassador and Mrs. Ducaru. H.R.H. the Crown Princess Margarita greeted guests in both Romanian and English, and shared her vision of activities her Foundation has taken and will undertake to assist Romanian society.

The evening's entertainment was presented by "La Strada," a group of six very talented musicians who grew up in an orphanage. After leaving the orphanage, they continued their musical inter-

around Romania. A book has also been published entitled *La Strada—Slices of Life Between Fiction and Reality*.

The Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation is a non-profit organization,

registered in Romania in 1990 as a legal entity, with related Foundations established in Belgium, France, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. Each Foundation office has independent legal status according to the laws governing non-profits in its country.

### The Foundation's Work

The collapse of communism in 1989 left Romania one of the most impoverished countries in Europe, with the lowest per capita income on the Continent and a demoralized population. For over a decade the Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation has been working to meet the pressing health and social welfare needs of Romania by providing programs assisting children, the elderly, and the poor.

The Foundation's collaborative policy is implemented within the structure of all its projects by establishing partnerships with Romanian local authorities, government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGO's), although it receives no

*[Continued to page 3]*



*Ambassador and Mrs. Sorin Ducaru*

*cordially invite you to a cocktail reception  
to benefit the Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation  
in the presence of*

*H.R.H. The Princess Margarita of Romania  
and  
H.S.H. Prince Radu of Hohenzollern-Veringen*

*Thursday, May 10, 2001  
6:30 p.m.*

*The Residence of the Romanian Ambassador  
2500 30th Street NW  
Washington, D. C.*

*Special Appearance by "La Strada"*

*Proceeds from this reception will benefit  
the Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation's  
"Special Fund for Children" and  
"The Young Talents Fellowship Program".*

*RSVP Card Enclosed*

*Dress: Business Attire*

ests by performing in subway stations and underground passages in Bucharest. In March 1998 "La Strada" released their first CD, entitled "La Strada—the World Music of the Streets." Since then two more CDs have been recorded, and the group has appeared in musical festivals

## GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Now that the Winter months are behind us, we can enjoy that long-awaited refuge called Summer. Already many are making plans for that long awaited "getaway" to some exotic land where they can just forget the toils and troubles of the rest of the world.

Since we have been so fortunate as to acquire the services of a new Webmaster, Mrs. Margaret Sypniewski, the PNA(F) has been deluged by both new and older surfers of the Web leaving messages of compliments and encouragement for the information now made available via the various connecting Web links so professionally established by our Webmaster Margaret. Because of her most diligent efforts we have been most



fortunate to have received some 14 individual prestigious awards. Equally impressive is the fact that the counter of "hits" on the Website shows that it has

been visited over 25,000 times! Margar has unselfishly volunteered her energie to that end, and for that we thank her most lovingly.

We encourage members, both old and new, to visit our Website and see how we have been able to accomplish so much in so short a time. The address is:

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Atrium/9615/index.html>.

You will be able to learn much more about Margaret by reading the article on page 4.

— Leonard J. Suligowski

"Aby nam się dobrze działo!"

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## The Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation

(continued from page 1)



Princess Margarita of Romania

aid from the Romanian government. Since 1999 the Foundation has collaborated with International institutions such as the World Bank, government agencies, and NGO's, on projects focused on de-institutionalizing the children.

The Foundation's programs include the following:

- Children and Youth: Health and Social Care
- Civil Society and Welfare
- Health Education
- Culture and Education.



Among the PNAF representatives were, left to right: Dr. Roger Chyliński-Polubiński; Mary Riggs (née Baroness Mills); and Douglas Riggs of Newport, Rhode Island.

If you would like to be included on the guest list for future events sponsored by the Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation events, please send a note to the PNAF. We will be glad to put you on the list of those notified when such events are announced.

You are invited to mail a tax-deductible donation to:

**The Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation**  
866 United Nations Plaza  
Suite 568  
New York NY 10017



La Strada entertains at the reception.

### Contents of this Issue

Reception on Behalf of the Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation .....	1
From the Editor's Desk .....	2
The PNAF .....	2
Meet the PNAF Webmaster .....	4
Polish Heraldry: Legend of the Odrowąż Shield .....	5
Dues and Donations List .....	6
St. Stanislas Investiture in Washington, D. C. ....	7
Lithuanian Royal Nobility Association Celebration .....	8
Washington's Polish Blood .....	9
Baltimore Seeks Restoration of Pułaski Monument .....	10
Royal Orders .....	10
PAHA Initiates Polish-American Memoirs Project .....	11
International News, Notes and Correspondence .....	12

## Meet the PNAF Webmaster

At this time we would like to introduce to our readers the person responsible for the current design and content of our website: Mrs. Margaret Sypniewski. Margaret, who calls Westland, Michigan her home, joined the PNA(F) back in October of 2000, after our former Webmaster, Dr. Lindgren, could no longer manage because of ill health.

Since that time, Margaret has taken hold of the reins and has turned the Website completely around, not only giving it a new custom-designed look, but also adding a musical touch by incorporating the sounds of Chopin's endearing and unforgettable Etudes, Sonatas and Polonaises to charm those who stop by. The music seems to relax and assist the visitor, rather than interfere with his concentration, so that exploring all the subjects offered becomes not so much a chore as an adventure.

She has drawn from her years of experience working with word processing and serving as Webmaster for a local Michigan school, where she conducted workshops on the Internet and made home pages for school teachers. She was also the advisor for computer use in the classroom, in addition to advising the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency. Both Margaret and her husband Ray are classified as "Educator Emeritus." She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Eastern Michigan University, and is currently working on an illustrated children's book. Somehow she still finds some time to continue work on her family history for publication—a history that goes back to the Pilgrims on the Mayflower. We here at PNAF are blessed in having her and her family members so deeply involved in the Foundation.

Aside from the many other duties she performs, she has the good fortune to be married to Raymond Sypniewski, whose Polish roots go back to the 15th century under the Odrowąż clan coat of arms. Ray is also an educator and man of letters, holding Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees from Eastern Michigan University of Ypsilanti.

All of the above educational activities notwithstanding, both Margaret and Ray still find time to take part in



*Here we see Mrs. Margaret Sypniewski, the PNAF Webmaster, hard at work at the computer. The painting on the wall just right of center is also her work!*

Renaissance Faires and ethnic festivals, designing and wearing traditional period costumes.

If you haven't already visited our Website, we cordially invite you to an experience of a lifetime by clicking on:

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Atrium/9615/index.html>

Those who have visited the site before can see what's new at this address:

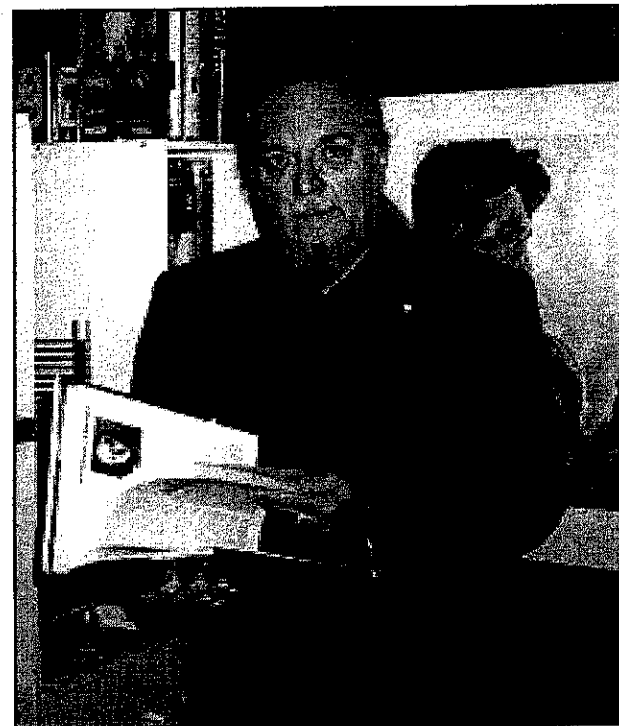
<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Atrium/9615/new.html>

While you're at it, take a look at the awards the site has garnered under our Webmaster's guidance.

If you would like to learn more about her background, feel free to visit these sites:

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Estates/9538/syptab.html>

<http://www.angelfire.com/ml/RedBearsDream/table.html>



*Raymond Sypniewski, an educator whose Polish roots go back to the 15th century.*

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Agora/6603/table.html>

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Estates/9538/chrysler.html>

<http://www.geocities.com/auch2000/Scotland.html> ☺

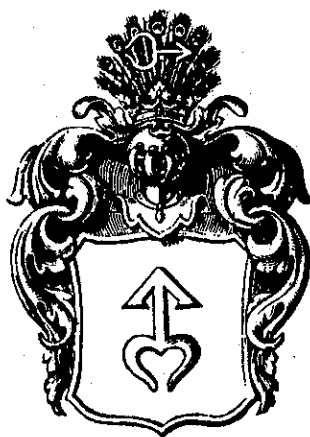
## Polish Heraldry: Origin of the Odrowąż Shield

The following was prepared from the classic heraldic reference *Herbarz Polski* (by Kasper Niesiecki, S. J., Lipsk [Leipzig] edition, 1839-1846) by Leonard J. Suligowski, 2184 North Henry, Brooklyn, NY 11222-3608. For each coat of arms the blazon or verbal description of the arms below is first given in the authentic heraldic style, followed by a translation from the Polish description by Niesiecki. The right and left sides of a shield are identified from the standpoint of the bearer, i. e., the one holding the shield. His right would be your left and vice versa. The tinctures (colors) in heraldry are as follows: azure = blue; gules = red; sable = black; or = gold; argent = silver; vert = green. In heraldry all charges (pictures) on a shield are assumed to be facing dexter (right side) unless otherwise specified. In Polish heraldry all animals or birds are assumed to be in their natural coloring unless otherwise specified.

Arms: *Gules*, an arrow in pale point to chief, the base double sarcelled and counter embowed, *Argent*. Out of a crest coronet a panaché of peacock plumes proper, charged with the arms in fess.

The shield is red, upon which is a silver arrow pointing upward, and the bottom is divided and curved on both ends. Out of a helmeted crown is a display of peacock plumes, upon which can be seen lying on its side the device as pictured on the shield. This is how it was described by the Paprocki in his work *Gniazdo cnoty* ["Nest of virtue"] on pages 109 and 1172, and in *O herbach* ["Of Clan Shields"] on page 392. You will also find a mention in Okolski's work, volume 2, pg. 299, and in *Klejnoty* ["Crests"] on pg. 69.

All these authors agree with the author/historian Długosz, that this clan came to Poland from Moravia, and that author says of the families of this house that they were always *providi et facundi* ["prudent and eloquent"]. The authors also agree with what Paprocki wrote, whose words I cite here. From ancient tales a story about the origin of this shield has been handed down by descendants of this house, that its progenitor, a certain knight of great renown in Moravia, would compete in archery with pagans in a foreign land, and they would vie with



### ODROWĄŻ HERB

each other, trying each other with amazing knightly feats. One pagan, seeing that he had no luck against him by force, went to the monarch of that land, knowing his mercy. Since the pagan had always enjoyed good fortune in battle with every enemy, wanting to get the better of the knight as well, he tried to tweak his nose in front of the monarch. The knight took that as an insult, and seizing him by the lip, tore it off, along with his moustache and nose; he stuck it on an arrow and showed it to the king. The king, who despised the disfigured pagan, gave the knight the arrow piercing the moustache as a remembrance for all time of his superiority over the pagan,

and named him *Odrzywąg* [literally "tears off moustache"], which later was corrupted to *Odrowąż*.

That is how Paprocki tells it. Okolski, however, would have it that the progenitor of this clan cut off both halves of the moustache, and the flesh with it, with the arrow. Bogdan Balbin in notes to *Epitome rerum Bohemicarum* [Summary of Bohemian Affairs], chapter 15, calls the arms of the Odrowąż family *Sagitta circumflexa* ["bent arrow"], and adds that some of the earliest houses in Bohemia bore these arms, of whom Tobias was Bishop of Prague, during the times of Přemysl Otakar II; but Balbin says that in those times when he was writing there was no family in Bohemia that used this clan shield—only in Moravia, the Tworkowskis and Siedlnickis (page 291).

There is some doubt as to when the Odrowąż family came to Poland. Paprocki, based on a charter of the Łysa Góra monastery issued in 966, mentions a Saul de Końskie, during the reign of Bolesław the Bold. But he is mistaken, because the monastery of Łysa Góra was founded later than that, and Bolesław the Bold had not yet ruled in Poland....

[Editor's note: Bolesław the Bold is thought to have been born in 967, and died in 1025].

### Families Using These Arms

Bębnowski	Gorski	Kurzański	Płoszowski	Sypniewski
Białaczowski	Gostwicki	Litawor	Pniewski	Szydlowiecki
Błaszkwicki	Jacynic	Łuskina	Potemski	Wanikowski
Buchta	Jeleński	Mieszkowski	Potrykowski	Werda
Burkacki	Kamieński	Milzecki	Pruszkowski	Wilkoński
Cedrowski	Kapusta kniaź	Minkiewicz	Przedworski	Wizgerd
Chlewicki	Karśnicki	Mniewski	Ptaszyński	Wolski
Chreptowicz	Kietliński	Pacanowski	Siedlniski	Wysocki
Chwałkowski	Konecki	Pawłowicz	Sprowy	Żaba
Duracz	Krzyszkowski	Pękalski	Strasz	Zaranowski
Godowski	Kuliński	Pieniążek	Sczekocki	

Małachowski and Wieladek and others give the following families as using this shield: Abratowicz, Minoski, Przedwojewski, Wilkowski, Wissogerd, and Wyssegerd. [A translation from the Niesiecki *Armorial*, Vol. VII, pg. 23ff.]

# Dues & Donations List

## Spring/Summer 2001

The Trustees and Regional Directors wish to acknowledge the following individuals and organizations for their continued support of the PNAF and its educational projects. The Trustees and Regional Representatives would like to take this opportunity to remind anyone who might have missed the Dues Notice mailed in January, that it is never too late—six months have elapsed, but six months remain in 2001. Please take a moment to sit down and send a dues or contribution check to support our many projects. Thank you.

Msgr. John Abucewicz, New Hampshire	\$150	Mrs. Del Kelly, Illinois	\$15
Commander Frank Aleksandrowicz, Ohio	\$25	Richard Kielbasa, Pennsylvania	\$50
Loraine Panek Bernstein, Maryland	\$75	Stanley J. Klemanowicz, California	\$25
Dr. Leo S. Bielinski, Texas, Maryland	\$100	Stephen Klimczuk, Virginia	\$25
John M. Borosky, Maryland	\$25	Dr. Roger F. Krentz, New Jersey	\$25
William C. Boyanowski, Texas	\$25	John David Lavendoski, Texas	\$50
Christine M. Bucko, Illinois	\$15	Dr. E. Michael Lewiecki, New Mexico	\$25
Dr. Stanislas Burzynski, Texas	\$250	Alexander Lisiewicz-Liston, California	\$25
Madame Paula Callou, Comtesse de la Motte-Thiery, Florida	\$15	Tadeusz Baron Lison-Lisowski, Germany	\$110
Brig. Gen. L. Robert Castorr, Maryland	\$30	Joseph W. Lodesky, Illinois	\$50
Dr. Peter E. Chojnowski, Idaho	\$12	Mieczysław Morawski, Virginia	\$30
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Utah	\$15	Jean Deręgowski-Miller, New York	\$25
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Joseph William III Radwan Dąbrowski-Zadło, Delaware	\$50	Thaddeus Obal, New Jersey	\$25
Dr. Robert, Baron von Dassanowsky, Colorado	\$25	Elwood H. Paradowski, Texas	\$25
Baroness Elfriede von Dassanowsky, California	\$25	George A. Piendak, Maryland	\$125
Michael Baron von Dembowski, Florida	\$50	Capt. Roman E. Piotrowski, Illinois	\$25
Bill Dluzniewski, New Jersey	\$35	Dr. David Pittman-Johnson, Alabama	\$25
James P. Dorovich, APO AE	\$50	Christina Polonski de Swida, New Jersey	\$50
Joseph D. Dressell, Illinois	\$50	Jan Połubiński, New York	\$50
Anthony Dzimitrowicz, Florida	\$25	Richard P. Poremski, Maryland	\$50
Thea R. Fry, New York	\$24	Edward Rach, Ohio	\$50
Michael J. Gransky, Connecticut	\$50	John Radzilowicz, Pennsylvania	\$30
Krystyna Gutt, New York	\$25	Robert C. Rarog, Washington, D.C.	\$50
Alfreda Guzik, California	\$50	Baroness Mary Mills Riggs, Newport, R. I.	\$25
Ct. W. G. Helon-Zieliński de Doliwa	\$150	Jacek Rudzinski, Illinois	\$15
Bennie Hoback, Maryland	\$15	Adam Sieminski, Washington, D.C.	\$100
Dr. Felix W. v. L. Holewinski, Wisconsin	\$150	Mark Bahr-Sievert, Maryland	\$30
Thomas L. Hollowak, Maryland	\$25	Adele Pratt-Simpler, Maryland	\$50
Sarah Lynn Hospodar, New York	\$25	Elizabeth Slawinska-Messick, California	\$25
Michael S. Humnicky, California	\$35	Dr. Albert Soberanski, Colorado	\$25
Jorge J. M. Iwaszkiewicz	\$75	Anthony J. Szumowski, Jr., Mass.	\$25
Judge Theodore Jakubowski, Texas	\$100	David Truman, Canada	\$35
Geraldine K. Jones, Colorado	\$25	Alice Turowski, Oregon	\$35
Edward R. Kaminski, New Jersey	\$25	David P. J. Tysowski, Canada	\$50
Dmitry G. Karpinsky, California	\$25	Dr. Konstanty F. von Unrug, Kentucky	\$25
		Stanislas M. A. Yassukovitch, France	\$155
		David Zarnowski, Florida	\$65

We would also like to acknowledge the gift from Mr. Tysowski of two books donated to the PNAF Reference Library:

*24 Widoków Miasta Krakowa i jego okolice, Zdjętych podług Natury przez N. N. Głowackiego, wraz z opisami Historycznymi oraz Plan Miasta i Mappa Jeograficzna okregu, w Krakowie, Nakładem D. E. Friedleina Księgarnia, 1836; and Le retour des tresors polonaise, Dépôt Legal-Bibliothèque Nationale du Québec, Musée du Québec, Canada 2001.*

The first is a collection of 24 picture postcards of the city of Kraków and its environs, "photographed according to Nature by J. N. Głowacki," published by D. E. Friedlein books, 1836; with additional historical notes, a city plan map and a geographical map. The second is *The Return of the Treasures of Poland*, in cooperation with the Legal department of the National Library of Quebec, and the Museum of Quebec, Canada 2001.

In the next issue of the Journal we shall be graced with a report on the above topic of Polish Treasures by Mr. Tysowski. ☺



# St. Stanislas Investiture in Washington D.C.



*Brig. Gen. Robert Castorr, at left, with Count Juliusz Nowina-Sokolnicki at the Croatian Embassy.*



*Mark E Sievert, his wife Mrs. Connie J. Sievert, and Mr. Mate Maras, the Embassy Minister-Councilor.*



*Mark E. Sievert was the standard-bearer for the investiture at the National Cathedral.*

On November 11th, 2000, the National Cathedral in Washington, D. C. was the setting for an investiture for the Order of St. Stanislas. Arrangements were provided by General Robert Castorr, and the ceremony was presided over by Count Juliusz Nowina-Sokolnicki. Among the 37 postulants was Mrs. Irena Jarocka, Poland's most popular singer. At the end of the investiture, P.N.A.F. member Chevalier Ed Rach

was promoted to Grand Cross of the Order.

Afterwards, a reception was hosted by the Embassy of Croatia. Guests were greeted at the door by Dr. Branko Baricevic, Minister Plenipotentiary, and by Mr. Mate Maras, Minister-Councilor. Surrounded by the art and heraldry of Croatia, the guests were entertained by talks about the local culture with the Embassy staff, and then dined on the regional cuisine. ☺

***The Polish Genealogical Society of America  
announces its  
Annual Fall Conference***

***"...And the Research Goes On"***

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Jan S. Zaleski  
Gayle Schlissel Riley  
Maralyn Wellauer  
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Elmhurst IL 60126  
630-833-1355  
E-mail: BSaelens@aol.com

*For more information visit the Website:  
<http://www.ststanislas.org>*

# Lithuanian Royal Nobility Association Celebration

Undinė Nasvytytė, the President of the Lithuanian Royal Nobility Association (LBKS), invited all her friends to a celebration in honor of her 75th birthday on March 12, 2001. The musical and literary evening party attended by nobles and artists took place in the old Vilnius Town Hall.

*"I remember one important mother's trait which a person of the aristocracy usually has—never ask something from somebody with extended hand, but strive to give something yourself. It is not good if you are greedy for material values. It can happen to lose everything. It is not so terrible to lose wealth as to lose dignity. I observe the present aristocracy and I think there is no aristocracy yet; only philistinism prospers in our society. I think our grandchildren will develop themselves into real aristocracy."*

Undinė Nasvytytė was born and grew up in the fashionable world, and she remembers this high life in the time between two wars very well. Parties of the aristocracy were organized at the estate of her parents, Elena and Kazimieras Nasvytis,\* in Vilkaviškis, and the president, Antanas Smetona, and other state politicians and leaders participated as well. \*[Editor's note: by English usage the standard form of Undinė's surname is Nasvytis, but the proper Lithuanian form of her name is the feminine Nasvytytė].

Her mother preserved a grant of nobility from the Polish King August III to Undinė's father Kazimieras. He was deported by force to Siberia, and the mother burned all documents pertaining to the aristocracy. As soon as he returned from Siberia, Undinė started to care for



*Undinė Nasvytytė, President of the Lithuanian Royal Nobility Association, is surrounded by admirers.*

such documents of privilege granted by King August III.

After the World War II, Undinė studied drama, graduated from the Conservatory and University, and worked as the announcer for the Lietuva Song and Dance Company and as a radio announcer for 25 years.

The old yellow photos were displayed on the hall ceiling as Undinė Nasvytytė recalled the joys and losses in her life, and introduced the famous people who had worked with her, who included writers Vacys Reimeris, Algimantas Baltakis, Marcelijus Martinaitis, Ignas Pikturna, Jonas Mikelinskas, Stasys Kašauskas, and critic Petras Bražėnas.

The famous sculptor and nobleman Konstantinas Bogdanas, of the Poraj clan arms, created her sculptural portrait, which was presented with the congratulations of the members of LBKS.

In addition to Undinė's monologue, artists of the Kaunas musical theatre—including Rita Preikšaitė (mezzo-soprano), Juozas Malikonis (bass), noblewoman M. Neniškytė (violin) and other performers—entertained the guests.

There were many flowers and many warm congratulations from all friends for Undinė. The anniversary party continued with entertainment.

*[Prepared by Webmaster of LBKS, Audronė Musteikienė, of the clan of Pogoń].*

## Additional Information about the Lithuanian Royal Nobility Association

The Lithuanian Royal Nobility Association [in Lithuanian, *Lietuvos Bajorų Karališkoji Sąjunga*, abbreviated LBKS] is the inheritor of all rights and duties of Lithuania's Association of the Nobility that were in force from 1928 till 1940. In June, 1994 the Union was registered at the Ministry of Justice. During this period four conventions of LBKS took place.

The Association consists of more than 1,000 members. Regional organizations are established in Kaunas, Klaipėda, Panevėžys, Šiauliai, Telšiai, Tauragė, and Vilnius. The Association also has members in the various countries of Europe and the Americas, as well as in Australia, New Zealand, and Malaysia.

The main aims and goals, which are indicated in the statute, are to foster citi-

zens' national and public responsibility and national dignity; to have respect for the country's historic past; and to take care of its language, ethnics, culture, and so forth.

Undinė Nasvytytė, former deputy for culture, became acting chief on December 9, 2000 after the resignation of the previous President, Jonas Stankus. The next Parliament will be in April 2002.



In mid-December, 2000, the LBKS Web side was created. Its address is:

<http://www.geocities.com/bajorai>

We invite you to visit it, and would enjoy reading your entries in our Guest book.

For those interested in researching their genealogy, here is a special page with many links, which is also for Lithuanians living in America:

<http://www.geocities.com/bajorai/genealogy.html>

As for foreigners, only legitimized nobles can get full membership and recognition with nobility statement. They must be related to Lithuanian nobility.

Fees are as follows:

- \* Accepting documents for legitimization: \$20
- \* Inaugural fee: \$30
- \* Members' annual fee: \$15
- \* Receiving a statement of recognition: \$100

Here are some addresses for contact:

LBKS  
Stikliu 4  
2024 Vilnius  
LITHUANIA

E-mail: Donatas Baikštys, Marshal of the Senate: [donates.baik@cust.lt](mailto:donates.baik@cust.lt)

You can write the President of the Association at the following address:

Mrs. Undinė Nasvytytė  
Volunges 18-1  
2055 Vilnius  
LITHUANIA ☽

## Washington's Polish Blood

It has been said that as many as one third of all Americans have Polish blood, but how to prove it? Occasionally, however, genealogical research can uncover the Polish link for some of whom we least expect it. Would you believe *George Washington??*

Yes, it's true. We start with Washington's great-grandfather, Col. John Washington, who emigrated from England in 1656, then trace his ancestry back and forth, among several European countries, until, finally, we reach Poland's first Royal dynasty, the Piasts. Here's the way of it.

*Bolesław Chrobry* (the Brave), who reigned in Poland from 995-1025, was the creator of the Polish State. He campaigned in the East and West, captured Kiev, and was Poland's first "crowned" king. He also won an independent Metropolitan See at Gniezno for the Catholic church in Poland, and fostered the missions of St. Wojciech (Adalbert) and St. Bruno among the heathen.

In Poland, however, kings with several sons would divide their kingdoms into dukedoms, one for each son, thus endangering the unity of the nation. After Bolesław's death, Poland alternated periods of unity with spells of disintegration and spasms of civil war. In 1138 Władysław II, Chrobry's great-great-grandson, the Duke of Silesia, succeeded to the title of Grand Duke of Poland, with his capital in Kraków. But the extra title gave him no real control over the dukedoms ruled by his brothers.

When the new Grand Duke attempted to convert his honorary title into real power, he lost the ensuing struggle and, in 1146, was driven out of Poland. From that time forth, he was known as Władysław the Exiled, but apparently his title still had currency in the royal marriage market.

In the course of his travels, he was able to marry off his daughter Richilde, to Alfonso VII, King of Castile and Leon in Spain.

A daughter of this union, Sancha of Castile, married another Spanish King, Alfonso II of Aragon, who also ruled Provence in southern France. With the next generation, one of their sons became Count of Provence, virtually independent of Aragon after 1196. Winston Churchill tells us that the culture of medieval Provence, the home of the troubadours and the creed of chivalry, fascinated Henry III of England. He developed a love for extravagant splendor and preferred the brilliant adventures of Poitou and Provence to his own morose barons. In 1236, he married Elanore of Provence, daughter of the Count, and thus brought Polish blood into the ancestry of all subsequent English kings.

The new Queen brought with her a host of poverty-stricken French relatives, hungry for English lands and offices. The marriage was not at all popular in England, but it produced one of England's greatest kings. Edward I, the "English Justinian," law giver, conqueror of Scotland and Wales, firm and wise administrator, who restored peace and harmony to a strife-torn nation.

Among the English nobility, titles and lands were regularly entailed on the eldest son, leaving little for other children. Daughters married where they could. Thus, in 1588, we find Margaret Butler, ten generations down from Edward I, marrying Lawrence Washington, country gentleman, of Sulgrave Manor in Northhamptonshire. (Sulgrave Manor was a former priory, "dissolved," i. e., confiscated, by Henry VIII during the Reformation and purchased in 1539 by the grandfather of this Lawrence Washington. In recent years, Sulgrave has been restored and has become a mecca for American tourists, although it actually stayed in the hands of the Washington family only about 120 years.)

A son, also named Lawrence, an Oxford graduate, became Rector of Purleigh in Essex, but he was on the royalist side during the Civil War and was ejected from his life style by the Puritan Parliament on the accusation (probably trumped up) of being a "common frequenter of alehouses where he daily tippedled."

The result was that England unwittingly made yet another great contribution to America, as the Washington family, led by Colonel John, in 1656, found a new home in friendly Virginia, a favorite refuge for royalists exiles.

Kirkley S. Coulter  
*Polish American World*

(Appearing in the *Polish Genealogical Society Newsletter*, June 1980). ☽

# Baltimore seeks restoration of Pułaski Monument

Only a few months have passed since the dedication of a new memorial to the Katyn forest Massacre. The Polish-American Community here is back at work once more, this time on behalf of the Pułaski Monument. Local leaders of Baltimore's Polonia have been moving to restore the large brick and marble monument in Patterson Park for at least a year, and are in a position to have repair work to begin this summer. Mr. Edmund Solinsky, Chairman of the Pułaski Monument Restoration Committee, said the group needs at least \$51,000 for the project's completion.

Built in 1951, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the structure, and it is undoubtedly showing its veritable age. Large cracks, added to decades of wind erosion, have taken their toll on the bronze fascia and have made the monument resemble an object retrieved from the bottom of a lake. It is the hope of the Committee that by October, the structure, sculpted by Hans Schuler and erected by A. C. Radziszewski, will have a completely new look.

Many things have changed in Baltimore over the past 50 years. For

one, the elements of the Polish community that largely financed the monument have gone their separate ways, leading the current custodians of the restoration effort to seek assistance from additional outlets. The first step was to recruit the Friends of Patterson Park, a collective of individuals who help maintain the inner city open space. Ms. Nancy Supik, President of the Friends, quickly joined Solinsky's group and is currently serving as secretary of the project. Then the group began exploring what fund-raising options were available.

The Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation and the Department of Recreation and Parks are two of the key organizations that have shown preliminary interest in providing matching grants. As with the National Katyn Memorial, this committee has appealed to veterans' groups for support, and the Maryland State Commission on Military Monuments has pledged \$10,000.

Currently, this group has collected the sum of \$6,000 in individual donations; its largest private contributor is a young professional who individually

donated out of guilt: he has confessed to having used the monument wall as a backstop for pickup baseball games as a youngster. All parties agreed to his \$2,000 gift to assist in helping remove the scuff marks as a suitable penance.

Now, as the drive to refurbish the Pułaski Monument continues, the Committee will attempt to build bridges and perhaps close the breaches between the interested Polish-American concerns, to unify and reach a possible success in recalling the Polish patriot who crossed the ocean for the cause of liberty and subsequently gave his life for this purpose.

"This is my goal: to blend these various groups together (in support of restoration efforts)," said Frederick Karr, treasurer of the Committees.

The Pułaski Monument Restoration Committee welcomes all participation in this endeavor. All contributors will receive special recognition for their efforts and support.

For information please contact the Committee, c/o Edmund Solinsky, Chairman, at (401) 665-8072, or by e-mail at [friends@pattersonpark.com](mailto:friends@pattersonpark.com). ☺

## Royal Orders

On 14 September 1637, the occasion of the wedding of King Władysław IV, twelve Senators were to be invested as the founding members of the **Order of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary**, Poland's first official order. The statutes were written and the Pope's sanction was obtained. But the *szlachta*, seeing this as an attack upon their "Golden freedom" and equality, forced the King to abandon this project.

Although several Polish Monarchs were members of the **Order of the Golden Fleece** and King Kazimierz IV was a **Knight of the Garter**, they wore no Polish order until the establishment of the **Order of the White Eagle**, traditionally created by Augustus II in 1705 but more probably in 1709. Its motto was *Pro Fide, Rege et Lege*: "For Faith, King and Law." It has survived to this day as a

White Eagle on a Maltese cross, with the motto: "For Fatherland and Nation".

King Stanisław August Poniatowski instituted the **Order of Saint Stanisław** in 1765. Both this and the **Order of the White Eagle** were subsumed into the Russian system of Orders following the failure of the Insurrection of 1830-31. The Order of Saint Stanisław was not re-introduced on the re-establishment of the Republic of Poland, although the **Order of Polonia Restituta**, established in 1921 and hanging on the same ribbon, is considered the continuation of the order.

The **Military Order of the Virtuti Militari** is the highest decoration for valor and military prowess and was created by King Stanisław Augustus in 1792, after the Polish forces' victory at Zieleńce during the Russo-Polish War. Originally the crowned Polish eagle dec-

orated the obverse of the cross, while on the reverse was the *Pogoń*, the mounted knight of Lithuania. The order, with slight changes, has survived to this day, and has five classes. ☺

## New Heraldry Website

[Leon Stevens <[lstevens@walterhav.com](mailto:lstevens@walterhav.com)> posted this note to [HERBARZ-L@rootsweb.com](mailto:HERBARZ-L@rootsweb.com).] Adam Kromer has published a site:

<http://www.heraldyka.monarchia.pl>

which contains a large number of coats of arms, plus other interesting heraldic information. Unfortunately only the charges and shields are shown, but the crests may easily be filled in from other sources. It's in Polish, but easy for non-speakers to navigate. ☺

# PAHA Initiates Polish-American Memoirs Project

At its annual meeting the Board of Directors of the Polish American Historical Association approved a resolution to initiate a Polish American Memoirs Project. The purpose is to preserve and record the Polish Experience in the United States through written personal experiences that provide insight into the nature, meaning and preciousness of ethnicity. Dr. Thomas S. Gladsky, past president of PAHA and author of three books and a score of articles on the Polish Experience in America, will serve as project director. The memoirs will be placed in the Polish American Archives at the Orchard Lake Schools in Orchard Lake, Michigan, where the Polish American Historical Association has its offices. In addition, Gladsky plans to edit a collection of memoirs for publication and to publish selected Memoirs in Polish American Studies and on the PAHA Website.

"We ask contributors," Gladsky explains, "to record and reflect upon those relationships, events and experiences both subtle and dramatic, personal and communal, that best express what it means and has meant to be an American of Polish descent. For some, the memoir will describe a determining moment from which the writer first or perhaps more thoroughly came to understand the ethnic self. For others, the memoir will record people, places and things that express some small but poignant part of Polish ethnicity. These memoirs will, I hope, be produced by people from a wide range of experiences, from diverse points of view, from different regions of the country and from different generations. They will collectively record the diversity as well as the core of Polish ethnicity.

According to Dr. Karen Majewski, Executive Secretary of PAHA, this pro-

ject fits the mission of the Polish American Historical Association perfectly. For more than a half century, the Polish American Historical Association has sought to document the Polish experience in America through scholarly research on the immigrant process, traditions, religious life, organizational activities and individual achievements." Majewski points out, "This project will add another dimension to that effort. We are excited about it." Memoirs may be of any length but must be typed. There is no deadline for this ongoing project.

If you have questions or wish to discuss the project, call Tom Gladsky at (248) 683-0314 or email: [tgladsky@aol.com](mailto:tgladsky@aol.com) or [tgladsky@stmmarys.ols.edu](mailto:tgladsky@stmmarys.ols.edu). You can mail typed manuscripts to Dr. Thomas S. Gladsky c/o St. Mary's College, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, MI 48324. ☺

## Elfi von Dassanowsky Named Chevalier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres

*[Press release 05/13/01 from Belvedere Film, Los Angeles/Vienna].*

Elfi von Dassanowsky, one of Austria's important postwar arts figures and currently a Los Angeles-based film producer, has been named a Chevalier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, one of France's highest honors. The decoration was established in 1957 to recognize eminent artists and writers, and people who have contributed significantly to furthering the arts in France and throughout the world.

As the youngest female student admitted to Vienna's Academy of Music and Performing Arts, Elfi von Dassanowsky instructed rising film star Curd Jürgens in piano, but resisted a contract from Berlin's UFA film studio. In 1946, she co-founded the first postwar studio in Vienna—Belvedere Film—with producer August Diglas and director Emmerich Hanus, and helped bring such European stars as Nadja Tiller and Gunther Philipp to the screen. An accomplished opera singer, pianist, actress, and radio announcer for Allied Forces Broadcasting and the BBC, she created

and performed in concerts for the Allied High Command, toured her one-woman-show through West Germany, and was active as a Hollywood vocal coach, cultural promoter and businesswoman. Her pioneering efforts have received wide recognition, and in 2000 she became the first Austrian to receive the Women's International Center's Living Legacy Award.

Prof. von Dassanowsky will receive the prestigious decoration from French officials in Los Angeles in June. International recipients of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres include the director of the Vienna State Opera, Ioan Holender, opera singers Marilyn Horne and Plácido Domingo, film director Ingmar Bergman, and actors Robert Redford and Meryl Streep.

## Publication of a Book on Nobles in the Kingdom of Poland

*[An e-mail from Leon Stevens, [lstevens@walterhav.com](mailto:lstevens@walterhav.com), contained the following information]:*

Elżbieta Sączyś, with the support of Sławomir Gorzyński and the Polish Heraldic Association, has just published *Szlachta wylegitymowana w Królestwie Polskim w latach 1836-1861* [Nobility

Legitimized in the Kingdom of Poland, 1836-1861] (Wydawnictwo DiG, Warsaw, 2000) ISBN: 83-7-181-145-4 (DiG), ISBN: 83-86643-83-8 (NDAP).

According to Mr. Gorzyński, this book "in large measure reconstructs the archive of the Bureau of Heraldry of the Kingdom of Poland." It includes the names, dates of legitimization and record

*[continued on page 12]*



## PNAF Member Leonard R. Piaseczny

Leonard R. Piaseczny, "Lindy," age 79, of Portage, passed away at home on Sunday, May 13, 2001. A veteran of World War II, U.S. Navy, and a member of American Legion Post #207, he was a former member of St. Hedwig Church in Gary. He was a retired employee of U.S. Steel-Gary Works. Lindy was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Joanna Piaseczny, and sisters, Eleanor Koshar and Delores Lewandowski. Survivors: one son, Wayne G. Piasecki of Portage; sister, Alice (Woody) Schultz of Calumet City, Illinois; brother, Joseph (Linda) Piaseczny of St. John; and numerous nieces and nephews. *Część jego pamięci!*

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS, NOTES, AND CORRESPONDENCE

### Hapsburg House Returned to Family

Archduchess Marie Christine Hapsburg, wife of Archduke Peter Ferdinand, will get back the house that belonged to her family in Bielsko-Biala (Poland). It will cost her a grand total of \$280.00, or 1% of the current value of the property, reported to be in a very poor condition. The authorities decided to return the building to the archduchess, a member of the family that once ruled the vast Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The house itself was nationalized by the communists after World War II, and then was taken over by the local government in 1998. Marie Christine is reported to be involved currently in a court case against the Żywiec Brewery for allegedly using the Hapsburg family coat of arms on their beer bottle labels.

*[Editor: oddly enough, more on this subject appeared on a Website, <http://www.polishvodkas.com>, and was posted to the Internet list Herbarz-L:]*

### Habsburg Archduchess Set to Return to Poland by Spring Next Year

Agence France Presse, Warsaw, May 14, 2001: A Polish archduchess is set to return to the country by next spring and live in a part of a castle which once belonged to her family, the PAP agency said on Sunday. "I can't describe how I feel—it makes me feel dizzy. For me, it's my home—it's not a foreign country. I want to stay there. I'm not far off 80 now but that doesn't bother me. I've achieved what I wanted," she told PAP.

Archduchess Marie-Christine of Habsburg, currently living at Davos, Switzerland, explained she plans to take up the apartment in Żywiec Castle in southern Poland and carry out charity work.

The building is now home to several schools and the Habsburg family has said it does not intend to reclaim it. But the Archduchess says she is going to take back a house which belonged to her family at Bielsko-Biala in southern Poland which she wants to use as a youth center. She is also party to a Habsburg legal action to reclaim ownership of the Żywiec brewery, taken over by the Dutch beer giant, Heineken, in 1998.

The building was nationalized by the Nazis during World War II after its then owner, Charles Olbracht Habsburg, refused to cooperate with the Germans. It was taken over by the Polish State before being privatized after the collapse of communism.

### First Habsburg Baby in 50 Years Born in Hungary

When this story first came over the Internet, there was some speculation as to whether it was a rumor, or someone playing some sort of a joke. Your editor, through the guidance of Mr. Don Foreman, the Secretary General of the Monarchist league in the U.K., was able to confirm the story. The first mention of this event was reported to the Internet by Mr. Paul Havers of the U. K., who had read a short item in an airline magazine (CEE) as follows:

"The first Habsburg baby to be born in Hungary for more than 50 years was delivered in Budapest on January 27th when Archduchess Eilika, the wife of Archduke Gyorgy von Habsburg, gave birth to a 3.8 kg. (approx. 6½ pounds) girl. The new baby who was yet to be publicly named, is the 20th grandchild of Otto von Habsburg, the present head of the house of Habsburg."

Confirmation of this story was provided by Prof. Hannes Marcel Bichler, a member of the Presidency for the Verband der Österreicher, Innsbruck, Austria, who was able to furnish some additional information.

"You may be interested to hear that the little Archduchess is named Sophie."

"Archduchess Sophie's first official appearance after her christening took place on May 10th at Nancy (Lorraine/France) at the celebration to mark the Golden Wedding of her grandparents, Their Imperial Royal Highnesses Archduke Otto and Archduchess Regina."

Prof. Bichler added an additional comment of his own: "While the formal address term Archduke Gyorgy of Habsburg is correct, all members have the family name 'Habsburg-Lothringen' and use the main titles of 'Archduke/ Archduchess of Austria' and 'Royal Prince/

Royal Princess of Hungary.' 'Princely Count of Habsburg' is one of the many titles they also inherited, but officially never use. All members are addressed as "His/Her Imperial and Royal Highness."

### Great-Granddaughter of Czar Dies

Valley Cottage, N.Y.: Princess Vera Constantinovna of Russia, great-granddaughter of Czar Nicholas I, died Thursday. She was 94.

Constantinovna lived in New York since 1951 and worked for charitable organizations, such as the Tolstoy Foundation, as reported by Catherine Larin, a foundation administrator. She was a devoted member of the Russian Orthodox Church-in-exile, formed after members of the Romanoff royal family and their supporters fled the Bolshevik Revolution.

The youngest of nine children by Grand Duke Constantine and Princess Elizabeth of Saxen-Altenburg, Constantinovna escaped with her mother and one brother from the revolution to Sweden in 1918, said Xenia Cheremeteff of the Tolstoy Foundation. From 1918, she was a stateless refugee. She never took foreign citizenship and never remarried, Cheremeteff said.

Her great-grandfather ruled Russia from 1825 to 1855. Constantinovna was buried January 15th in the Russian Orthodox Cemetery of Novo-Diveyevo in Spring Valley, New York.

*(From the New York Daily News, Sunday, Jan. 14th, 2001). ☞*

### Book on Nobility (from page 11)

citations of many (most?) individuals whose nobility was confirmed by Russia from 1836 to 1861. Of course it does not include the Prussian and Austrian partitions, but Mr. Gorzyński promises that similar works covering these zones are in the works. By rough estimate, the surnames in this work represent perhaps less than 5% of the families of the late 18th-century Polish-Lithuanian nobility.

*[This book is available from Polonia Bookstore, <http://www.polonia.com>, and from the publisher, <http://www.dig.com.pl/Eng/index.html>]. ☞*