



WHITE EAGLE

JOURNAL OF THE POLISH NOBILITY ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

Published semi-annually, provided to libraries in over 30 countries worldwide
A Non-profit Foundation • Villa Anneslie • 529 Dunkirk Road • Anneslie, MD 21212-2014 USA



SPRING/SUMMER 2002

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The 30th International Polonaise Ball

Celebrating Greece and Poland: Centuries of Social, Diplomatic and Cultural Ties

by Beata Paszyc, Director of Public Relations, the American Institute of Polish Culture, Inc.

The friendly relationship between Greece and Poland encompasses much history. The mutual respect between these two countries has fostered strong social, cultural and literary ties. The friendship, which started in the 10th century, has flourished throughout the ages and continues today on various levels.

This year the American Institute of Polish Culture celebrates the three decades of its existence. The 30th International Polonaise Ball, in tribute to Greece and Polish-Greek relations, was held on February 9, 2002 at the beautiful Wyndham Miami Beach Resort. It began with a lovely cocktail party.

Members of the Polish-American Folk Dance Company from New York wearing 18th-century Polish costumes greeted the guests to the

Mediterranean Ballroom. The colors of the décor were cream and blue, just like the flag of Greece. The emblem of Poland, the gold-crowned, white-feather eagle, proudly hung over the podium, while forsythias on the tables gave the feel of a spring-like joyful atmosphere.

The Ball commenced with the anthems of the United States, Greece and Poland. The Master of Ceremonies, John Wayne, Jr. a well-known singer, opened the Ball. He then read a congratulatory message from President George W. Bush. Mrs. Teresa Janiszewska, Consul of the Republic of Poland, read a letter from the President of the Republic of Poland, Aleksander Kwaśniewski. Mrs. Anna Niewiadomska, Counselor of Cultural Affairs, delivered a message from the Polish Ambassador, Przemysław Grudziński, and Ambassador Loucas Tsilas spoke warmly on behalf of the Greek Ambassador, Alexander Philon.

Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mrs. Harriett Irsay and Mrs. Elektra Spillis were the Chairpersons for the Ball. Lady Blanka welcomed everybody to the celebration of the 30th



From left to right: Ambassador and Mrs. Loucas Tsilas, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Schietse. Photo courtesy of the author.

anniversary and the International Polonaise Ball in tribute to Greece and Polish-Greek relations. She also acknowledged the presence of the Board of Directors of the Institute to thank them for their efforts, generosity and support. The following Directors were present: Mrs. Barbara Cooper and Mr. Roman Cooper, the Honorable Maurice Ferre and Mrs. Mercedes Ferre, Mr. Michael Gastom, Mrs. Harriet Irsay, Mr. Boleslaw Laszewski, Mrs. Ande Lippen, Mr. Edward Kruszewski, Dr. Tully Patrowicz, Mrs. Ednagene Schofman, Mr. Edmund Sadowski-Vice President, Mr. Michael Skronski and Mr. John Sullivan.

It is a tradition that the Ball starts with the Polonaise. It was led by Lady Blanka Rosenstiel and the Honorable Bogdan Hryniewicz, followed by Ms. Anna Niewiadomska and Mr. Benedict Markowski, Mrs. Eleni Tzoka with Mr. Ares Chadzinikolau, Mrs. Harriet Irsay and John Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Schietse, Dr. and Mrs. Stanislaw Burzynski, Miss Agnieszka Zakreta with Mr. Ignacy Mitera, Mr. and Mrs. Witold Sulimirski, to mention a few.

[continued on page 3]

GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

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



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

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

—Leonard J. Suligowski

"Aby nam się dobrze działo!"



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The Journal of the
 Polish Nobility Association
 Foundation
 Villa Anneslie
 529 Dunkirk Rd.
 Anneslie MD 21212-2014
 USA

The *White Eagle* is published
 semi-annually, in Spring/
 Summer and Fall/Winter
 editions.

Editor: Leonard J. Suligowski
 218A N. Henry St.
 Brooklyn NY 11222
 USA

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After the dance his Excellency Bishop Tomasz Wenski gave the invocation. During dinner guests enjoyed the artistic program. The Polish American Folk Dance Company of NY performed a White Mazur. The Isadora Duncan Dance Ensemble gave a performance of *Valse Brillante* to music by Chopin. They also danced Bacchanal, which was to evoke the Maenads, the ancient cult of Greek women who worshipped

Dionysus, god of wine and ecstasy, to music by Gluck. The dancers finished with a graceful *Southern Roses* waltz by Strauss. Then, Mr. John Wayne, Jr. sang some beautiful songs in his golden tenor-baritone voice. All performances were received with great enthusiasm.

Lady Blanka Rosenstiel received proclamations from the Mayor of Dade County, Alex Penelas, and the Mayor of the City of Miami, Emanuel Diaz.

Super Angels recognized for their heart and generosity were called to the stage: George Batchelor, Stanislaw and Barbara Burzynski, Basia and Roman Cooper, Harriet Irsay, Ande Lippen, Andres and Jane Molina, Peter and Elektra Spillis. Agnieszka Zakreta, Miss Polonia of the World 2000, presented the flowers.

Consul Teresa Janiszewska and Mrs. Anna Niewiadomska, Counselor of Cultural Affairs, representing the Ambassador of Poland, awarded a very special recognition, *Amicus Poloniae*, to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Beaman, Mrs. Harriet Irsay, Mrs. Ande Lippen, and Mrs. Hanna Saxon for their outstanding efforts to promote development and cooperation between Poland and the United States.

Dr. Tully Patrowicz, who was just appointed by Governor Bush to Florida's Board of Medicine, and with his family celebrated his birthday at the ball,

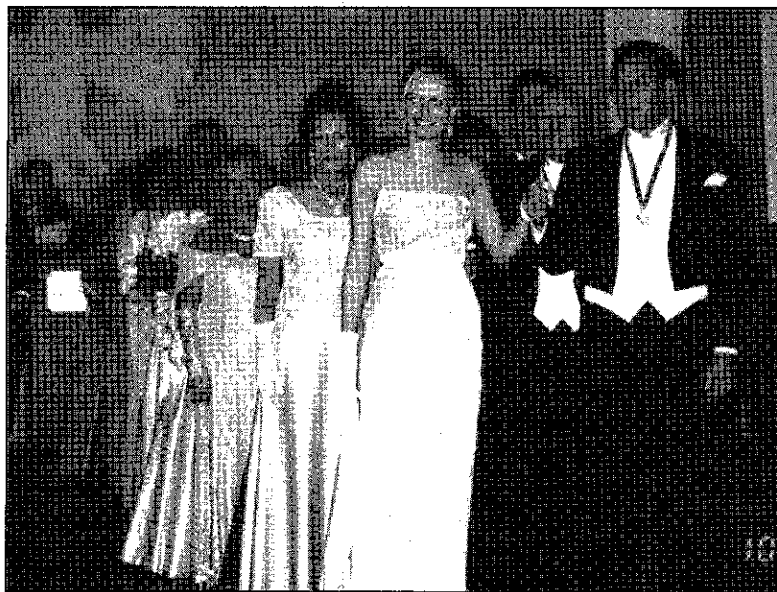


From left to right: Miss Polonia 2000, Agnieszka Zakreta; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Spillis; Mrs. Ande Lippen; Mrs. Harriet Irsay; Mrs. Barbara Burzynski; Lady Blanka Rosenstiel; and Mrs. Jane Molina. Photos courtesy of the author.

Dr. Nikos Chadzinikolau is a great poet, translator, and historian, who has had over 100 works published. He has devoted his life to promoting Greek culture in Poland and Polish culture in Greece.

Eleni and her band took the stage and sang Greek and Polish songs, which invigorated the guests as they danced happily to the Mediterranean tunes. Dr. Chadzinikolau proved to be a talented dancer and gave us a performance reminiscent of the dance by Anthony Quinn in "Zorba the Greek." The guests danced the night away, and left with a new awareness and appreciation for Polish and Greek cultures.

There was a warm atmosphere at the Ball enjoyed by all the guests many of whom traveled long distances; Dr. Nikos Chadzinikolau, Ms. Eleni Tzoka and Mr. Ares Chadzinikolau



In the foreground: Miss Polonia 2000, Agnieszka Zakreta, and Mr. Ignacy Mitera; behind them are Dr. and Mrs. Ted Darocha, and Mrs. Barbara Burzynski.

introduced Dr. Henryk Roztoczynski, from Chicago, who received special recognition for his charitable efforts in the field of medicine.

This year Gold Medal recipients were Mrs. Eleni Tzoka, for her achievements in the field of entertainment, and Dr. Nikos Chadzinikolau, for his promotion of Greek and Polish cultures. Both came from Poland for this occasion. Eleni, one of the most popular Polish singers, promotes both cultures through music all over the world.

from Poland; Ambassador Loucas and Mrs. Tsilas; Ms. Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska, the Consul of Poland from New York; Ms. Teresa Janiszewska, Consul of Poland; Ms. Anna Niewiadomska, the Counselor for Cultural Affairs from the Embassy of Poland in Washington D.C.; the Honorable Chester Hryniewicz, the Honorary Consul of Poland in Puerto Rico; the Honorable Stanley Balzekas, the Honorary Consul of Lithuania; Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Schietse from Monaco; Dr. and Mrs. Stanislaw Burzynski, Dr. and Mrs. Ted Darocha from Texas. Mr. and Mrs. Roman

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

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

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

Postscript: A Very Special Brunch with Music and Dancing

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

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

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

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

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Claiming Inherited Noble Status

by The Honorable Federal Judge Theodore Count Jakubowski (Ret.)

The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author, and do not necessarily represent those of the Editor or the Polish Nobility Association Foundation.

Polish-Americans may claim inherited noble status received by one's ancestors, one two or three centuries ago. Also, ancestral titles—seldom conferred by Poland—are part of the birthright; not to honor them constitutes an affront to one's ancestors.

Some rather simple-minded folk operate under the notion that living in a democracy means that both noble status and any titles held by one's ancestors are forbidden. They labor under a misconception. The assault on the nobility may be thought of as having its historical beginning on July 14, 1789, when the mob broke into the Bastille in Paris and seized weapons to begin their revolution. The dark side of the French Revolution included such ideas as destroying the monarchy, the church, the nobility, and even the institution of the family. These ideas were carried forward by European activists in the democratic movements of 1848, the Communist movement, and even today by some ultra-liberals.

One needs to keep in mind that the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth of Two Nations (from 1385 until the Third partition of 1795) paralleled the Roman Empire in that—whether we like it or not—full rights of citizenship were limited to the governing elite, called *szlachta* in Polish, and usually translated as “gentry” or “nobility” in English. It is not truly correct to consider the *szlachta* a class; they actually were more like a caste, the military caste, as in Hindu society. Every Polish-American who can trace just one ancestor on his paternal line—as everything descended from one's male ancestors—today may reclaim his birthright as a descendant from a forebear who belonged to this landed gentry/warrior caste. The privilege that membership in the *szlachta* carried was that of being seen as a *Pan* or Lord, as distinguished from the lesser rungs on the social ladder.

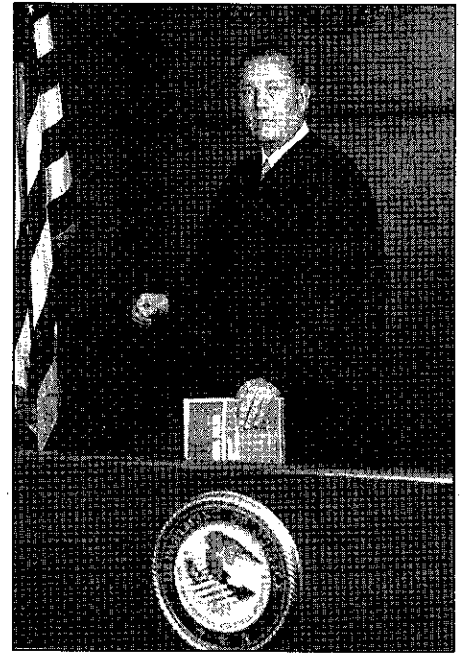
The institution of the *szlachta* was highly developed in the lands constituting the so-called *Kresy* or Borderlands, the

eastern reaches of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (now comprising much of Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine and even Moldova). In the *Kresy* the Poles were the landlords and administrators of all kinds. They were the *nomenklatura* (to use a modern term, which seems to have originated with them). The peasants were usually non-Polish; and a large body of the *szlachta* possessed little or no land. After the partitions, Empress Catherine II of the Russias caused all Polish nobles to be enrolled in the Russian rolls of Nobility, which had 14 categories.

Catherine and the Czars who followed were afraid of the large element of poor “peasants with coats-of-arms,” as they were called. She ultimately acted to protect her state from the proud and patriotic Polish lesser nobility, by the simple expedient of chopping off all but the top 5 of the 14 ranks, or 80% of the total.

In Poland itself, there had been reflections of the noxious policies of the French Reign of Terror and class warfare, even contained in the Constitution of May 3, 1791, which disenfranchised members of the *szlachta* who did not own land, up to 400,000 nobles. It is ironic that Polish-Americans—of whom from two-thirds to three-fourths stem from noble roots, even though faintly after centuries of disparagement—have been duped into paying respect to a Constitution that amounted to one of the final nails in the coffin of the warrior Gentry. This is a “Rite of Spring” that needs a second look....

Originally the clergy in Poland were exclusively from the *szlachta* class. At the end of the 18th Century, men of other social origins were allowed into the clergy. At the same time, the ever more powerful Catholic Church, never comfortable with the individualism and freedom of the *szlachta*, started a program of not recording noble lineage on baptismal certificates. This is an historical fact that can be verified by researching Church records, where one see children dispo-



Judge Theodore Jakubowski

sessed of their noble rank by the stroke of the cleric's pen.

In earlier times, historians reported of the *Kmiecie*, Poles who had accepted the Christianity of the Roman Slavonic rite of Cyril and Methodius. Even the history of the adoption of Christianity by King Mieszko I is usually incorrectly reported; with few historians reminding their readers that Mieszko I was “already” a Christian under the Roman Slavonic rite. The Roman Slavonic rite was not completely submerged until the 12th century. The gentry among the *Kmiecie*, usually part of a minority suffering great discrimination, reverted to peasant standing, even where they maintained memories of once having one of the 135 family coats of arms at the junction of the 14th and 15th centuries.

Through the operation of accidents of history, the larger majority of Americans of Polish descent spring from forebears who were nobility in the *Kresy*.

The circumstances were these. A large noble element had migrated to the East, after the union with Lithuania, to take over immense areas of land that had been essentially depopulated by the depredations of the Tatars. Also, the governing class were largely of Polish ethnicity—while the peasants working the land were Ruthenians (many of whom were former *Kmiecie*). The poorer of the *szlachta* in the *Kresy* were disenfran-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Legend of the Syrokomla Coat of Arms

The following was prepared from Volume VIII, pp. 589-591, of the classic heraldic reference *Herbarz Polski* (by Kasper Niesiecki, S. J., Lipsk [Leipzig] edition, 1839-1846) by Leonard J. Suligowski, 218A North Henry, Brooklyn, NY 11222-3608. For each coat of arms the blazon or verbal description of the arms below is first given in the authentic heraldic style, followed by a translation from the Polish description by Niesiecki. The right and left sides of a shield are identified from the standpoint of the bearer, i. e., the one holding the shield. His right would be your left and vice versa. The tinctures (colors) in heraldry are as follows: azure = blue; gules = red; sable = black; or = gold; argent = silver; vert = green. In heraldry all charges (pictures) on a shield are assumed to be facing dexter (right side) unless otherwise specified. In Polish heraldry all animals or birds are assumed to be in their natural coloring unless otherwise specified.

Blazon: the shield is *gules*; the charge is Abdank surmounted of a cross, all *argent*. For a crest the charge of the arms.

The heraldic device of Abdank, in white, should be upon a red shield; however, at the top of the device in the center is a golden cross, and on the helmeted crown is the same white Abdank device as on the shield. This is how it was described by Paprocki in his work *O herbach* [On clan shields], page 170; by Okolski, volume 3, page 147; and by Bielski, page 277.

All authors agree that this coat of arms was acquired in Poland, and that the cross was added to the ancestral arms of a knight named Syrokomla. He had defeated a pagan Prussian who had been challenging the Polish knights to single combat and cursing the name of Christianity. The cross was added to his arms because he had defended the honor of God crucified.

Some say that this is supposed to have taken place circa 1330, during the reign of King Władysław Łokietek; but that cannot be, since Bernard, bishop of Poznań, who died in 1175, was of Syrokomla arms, according to Treter in *Vitae Episcoporum Posnan.* [Lives of the



SYROKOMLA HERB

Bishops of Poznań], and around that year the Prussians, being afflicted by war, had recognized Christ as God.

Lubieński in *Vitae Episcoporum Plocen.* [Lives of the Bishops of Płock] dates to 1391 Jakób of Kurdwanów, bishop of Płock, and states that he was of Syrokomla arms, the son of Floryan, and one must say, figuring the years, that the arms were conferred upon this Floryan. This Jakób signed his name as "of Kurdwanów," so I understand that he belonged to the Kurdwanowski Półkozices, which is where I spoke of him. Długosz in his history under the

year 1396 writes that he did not sign his name as "de Kurdwanów" but "de Korzkiew," and was a "man of rare literary gifts, having the gift of discourse. *Acta Concilii Constantiensis* [Records of the Council of Constance], volume 2, *Concil. Edit. Colon. Mihi f. 1042 sessione praecipue 9* writes that Mikołaj, bishop of Płock, had a seat among the other mitred prelates at that council in 1415. He was elected by that synod as judge or deputy commissioner for hearing and judging all cases that were appealed to the synod. From this I conclude that either there was a Mikołaj who was bishop of Płock after Jakób, but Długosz and our other historians omitted him, or else the printer erroneously named him Mikołaj instead of Jakób. It is all the more likely that this was an error because the *Acta Concilii* calls him Mikołaj, bishop of Płock, and added that he was "ex natione Germanica" [from the nation of Germany], but I have heard of no Płock diocese in Germany. Of this Jakob it was said in the *Acta* that he had great skill with church law, which he acquired in Bologna, to the extent that he was summoned to Rome by the Pope and created *Auditor Palatii Apostolici* [Auditor of the Apostolic Palace].

Bearers of these Arms

Andronowski
Baranowicz
Bejnart
Bulhak
Chalecki
Chybicki
Dziewoczka

Grocholski
Hołub
Ilgowski
Iwanowicz
Jałowski
Karnicki
Kiński

Kondratowicz
Korzekwicz
Kościałkowski
Łosowicz
Masło
Mingiel
Momtrym

Nieszyjka
Puciata
Puciatycz
Sehen
Sołtan
Sopoćko
Starosielski

Stefanowski
Świeszkowski
Wasilewicz
Wielicki
Wieliczko
Witoniski
Wojniłowicz

Zajac
Żołądz

Not all noble families, however, use this clan shield in the same form. The family of **Andronowski** displays a arrow pointed upward over the Abdank device, and under the arrowhead are two crosses in a straight line, and atop the helmet are

three ostrich plumes. The **Wasilewicz** family also uses this form. The families of **Baranowicz** and **Jałowski** use the same form, except the crosses are placed diagonally on the arrow, forming a letter "X." I described the form used by the

Chaleckis in the third volume; the **Siehens** also use it. The **Ilgowskis** belong to clan Syrokomla, and along with them the **Iwanowicz**es and **Karnickis**, whose arms you will find in Volume IV, page 402. The **Hołubs** have an arrow on the

Abdank device, placed vertically, but only half of the arrow is visible, with no arrowhead, on the left side of the shield; it has a crest of three ostrich plumes. The **Łosowicz** shield has one corner of the Abdank device, broken and pointing downward; it has a similar crest with three ostrich plumes. The **Wojniłowiczes**

have only a single arrow, with no cross, and bear three ostrich feathers in the helmet, instead of a cross. The **Chomicz** and **Starosielski** families display a single cross on the arrow and a crest of three ostrich plumes. The **Sopoćko** and **Wieliczka** families have an arrow instead of a cross, with a cross

through it but diagonally, with the top at the right and the bottom at the left. The **Nieszyjka** family places an arrow pointed upward and piercing a heart, above the Abdank device; on the crest are three ostrich plumes. See the **Soltans'** variation of the arms in its proper place. ☞

Britain's Queen Mother Dies at 101

By Giles Elgood, LONDON
(Reuters) – The Queen Mother, the 101-year-old mother of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, died in her sleep on Saturday with her daughter at her bedside, Buckingham Palace said.

The Queen Mother, the widow of King George VI and a rock of support for her eldest daughter Queen Elizabeth, 75, died at 3.15 p.m. (1515 GMT) on March 31, 2002, after a period of declining health.

Buckingham Palace said: "The Queen, with the greatest sadness, has asked for the following announcement to be made immediately. "Her beloved mother, Queen Elizabeth, died peacefully in her sleep this afternoon, at Royal Lodge, Windsor."

A palace spokesman added: "The Queen Mother had become increasingly frail in recent weeks following a bad cough and chest infection over Christmas." "Her condition deteriorated this morning and her doctors were called."

He said that the Queen Mother's coffin would be moved to Royal Chapel of All Saints in Windsor Great Park on Sunday.

Heir to the throne Prince Charles and his two sons Prince William and Prince

Harry were returning to Britain from a skiing holiday in the Swiss resort of Klosters.

The Queen Mother's death adds personal tragedy to a succession of domestic traumas suffered by the royal family in recent years, most recently the death on February 9 of her younger daughter, Princess Margaret, at the age of 71.

The "Queen Mum," as she was affectionately known, was queen consort during World War Two and was the devoted companion of King George, who unexpectedly became the monarch after his brother Edward VIII abdicated in 1936.

Germany's Adolf Hitler branded her the most dangerous woman in Europe for her morale-boosting contribution to the British war effort after she refused to leave London to escape the wartime attacks called the "Blitz" and visited areas of the city damaged by bombing.

To younger generations of Britons she was the nation's favorite grandmother, a smiling presence who was still carrying out public duties into her centenary.

Left a widow in 1952, she became the matriarch of the royal House of Windsor and enjoyed a position as one of



BORN: LADY ELIZABETH BOWES LYON, AUGUST 4, 1900

MARRIED: APRIL 26, 1923, IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY TO PRINCE ALBERT, THE DUKE OF YORK, FUTURE KING GEORGE VI.

DIED: MARCH 31, 2002 (AT AGE 101)

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY TO THE BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY IN THEIR TIME OF SORROW.

Recent Acquisitions for the Heraldic Reference Library

Herby Rycerstwa Polskiego z XVI wieku [Cian Shields of Polish Knighthood from the 16th Century], by Józef Szymański.

Metrika Litewska. Księga wpisów nr. 131 [Lithuanian Public Register: Registration book #131], by: Andrzej Rachuba.

Heroldia Królestwa Polskiego [Heraldry of the Polish Kingdom]. A catalogue of illustrated documents from the archives from the city of old Warsaw and the Warsaw Historical Museum, by: Sławomir Górczyński.

Materiały Genealogiczne, Nobilitacje, Indygenaty, w zbiorach Archiwum Głównego Akt Dawnych w Warszawie, by Anna Wajs [Materials regarding Genealogical, Nobility and Naturalization from the Files of the Chief Archives of Old Records in Warsaw].

the best-loved members of the royal family, her popularity undimmed by the scandals of the past two years affecting other royals.

A Scottish aristocrat, she married the then Duke of York in 1923. In her service to the crown as duchess, queen consort and dowager, she is credited with bringing the old imperial monarchy closer to the people.

[Photo of the Queen Mother, above, taken in 1992 by Tim Graham. Thanks to Michael Subritsky-Kusza for sending us this article. – Editor] ☞

Exhibition of Lithuanian Nobles' Arms

by Audronė Musteikienė, of clan Pogoń, Webmaster of LBKS [The Society of Lithuanian Nobles]

On February 16, Lithuania celebrates Independence Day. It comes from 1918, the year when Lithuania declared her independence during a dangerous and historic time. The country had been under Russian occupation from 1795 to 1918.

The nobles of Lithuania gathered to celebrate this day of Lithuania's restoration as a state on February 16, 2002, in the Lithuanian Technical Library in Vilnius.

A feast would not be a real feast if we hadn't assigned for it some pieces of artistic, creative work. As the writer dedicates his verses, a composer expresses his thoughts in music, a painter in his pictures, and a farmer gives out his love to the grain.

The exhibition of coats of arms of the nobles of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania nobles was opened on this day of honor. Kazys Mackevičius, of the clan of Geralt, Director of the Library, opened the exhibition. Thirty coats of arms were presented; this is only a small part of the creative work of professor and sculptor Konstantinas Bogdanas. A couple hundred coats of arms were revived to experience new life. (Vilnius district has over 500 members, and the Royal Lithuanian Nobility Association counts about 1,500 members.)

The descendants of nobles of Lithuania had hidden their documents of nobility in Soviet times; some of the documents had even have burned. Now their coats of arms were restored and revived to live again in the present.

The author presented the exhibits. He is an expert on heraldry and told of the main principles and requirements of heraldry, and of the history of heraldry in Lithuania.

"Heraldry, in Latin *heroldus*, is the study of coats of arms and crests; this includes composition, elucidation and research. The coat of arms is the distinctive family badge or crest, which indicates the state, city, estate, and



Above, from left to right: Konstantinas Bogdanas, LBKS senator and chief of LBKS's Vilnius division; Undinė Nasvytytė, LBKS President; Gražina Juknevičienė, former chancellor of LBKS's Vilnius district, now the Deputy of Mrs. Nasvytytė; and Kazimieras Mickevičius, LBKS senator, Director of the Technical Library, where the exhibition was held.

family. Usually they were represented on flags, coins, seals, etc.

"They are an international language of symbols, part of the nation's culture, which represents the state, town, or the person himself.

"In Lithuanian coats of arms, heraldic figures were not used: birds, animals, plants or the attributes of warriors. The Lithuanian coats of arms are different from other nations' coats of arms. They are more spiritual than military. The main part of coats of arms, shield and helmet, cannot be changed; the other parts are allowed to express some interpretation.

"The first coats of arms appeared in Lithuania in the 13th and 14th centuries. The knights used to get distinctive badges in fights with enemies. The nobles used their coats of arms on shields, helmets, coats and flags. These badges couldn't be called coats of arms till the 14th century because they didn't correspond to the rules of heraldry: they were missing the shield, special colors and inheritance. The badges originated from symbols. Even in the 5th century B.C. the towns had their signs.

"The first coats of arms mostly were with the arrow motif. The other group of coats of arms were of Polish origin, and historically Lithuania had many in common with Poland. Many of them are borne by nobles nowadays. The Polish nobles used to go war under one flag. The nobles of one district used the same badge on their flags. In this way many families came to bear one coat of arms.

"Over the course of centuries the coats of arms changed. Lithuanian nobles, getting the Polish coats of arms, supplemented them with some figures, and changed their names."

After the nobles and their guests had looked around the exhibition, they gathered in the restored arched-cellar restaurant. Doctor of humanitarian sciences Bronislovas

Vonsavičius of the clan of Łabędź told us, on the basis of historical sources, about the important and incredible events in Lithuania in 1918, and about the Act of Declaration of Independence.

The party continued with entertainment and dancing. We thought: "If there were no February 16th, maybe we would not have another important date for Lithuania—March 11, when Independence was declared once more in 1990, after 50 years of Soviet occupation!"

[LBKS, Lietuvos Bajorų Karališkoji Sąjunga, is the Society of Lithuanian Nobles, Website: <http://www.geocities.com/bajorai>].

The LBKS Coat of Arms

The golden sign of the first Lithuanian Knight, Mindaugas, was chosen to be the coat of arms of the LBKS. This sign was engraved on a lead stamp that was found in the city of Naugardas.

A researcher of Lithuania's ancient history, academician Vlاديمiras Pašuta (1918-1983), wrote: "In the city of Naugardas a lead stamp, 15-16 mm. in diameter, was found. On one side was inscribed 'МБНГДОВБ'; on the other was this sign [an upside-down M with a cross over the center]. It is probable that it belonged to the Russian estate of the property of the knight Mindaugas; it calls to mind the sign of the Kiev vice-regents." (V. Pašuta, *The Formation of the State of Lithuania*, Vilnius, 1971, page 224). This is also cited by the historian Domas Butėnas in his work, and by the heraldry specialist Prof. Edmundas Rimša, as well.



Some historians claim that the sign of Mindaugas, like others indicating the property of our ancestors, is reminiscent of signs in Scandinavian and other European countries. In those times Russian-alphabet graphics were popular.

A nice legend has been created about this sign. The Russian letter M, turned over, signifies Mindaugas' rejection of paganism, and the cross above it stands for the first christening of Lithuania.

Pope Inocent IV crowned Mindaugas in 1253. By the traditions of those times every ruler who sought a king's crown not only had to be christened, along with his kin, but he also had to build a cathedral in his patrimony.

It is known from the documents that a cathedral was built in Voruta. At present some historians think that the castle in Voruta mentioned in the old chronicles is the same as our capital of Lithuania, Vilnius.

[Written by sculptor, Prof. Dr. Konstantinas Bogdanas, chief of Vilnius district's section. Translated by A. Musteikienė. It is reprinted from the LBKS Website.] ☺

Rik (Suligowski) Fox to portray "Winged Hussar" in Pulaski Day Parade

This year's Pulaski Day parade, to take place on October 6, 2002, proceeding down 5th Avenue in New York City, will feature Rik Fox (né Ryszard Suligowski) in full authentic 16th-century Winged Hussar regalia on horseback, as the lead-in for the Greenpoint Brooklyn contingent.

This will be the very first time such an event is to be presented in the parade's 65 years of existence. This portrayal is being sponsored by Mr. Adam Bąk, president of Adamba Imports of Brooklyn.

Rik had his armor fashioned from the authentic periods and is the point of interest for all attendees at the various Renaissance Faires in California and Las Vegas where his appearance is sought out. He has established his own Polish Nobility Commonwealth Guild, and is now gaining a following of additional individuals in period armor and dress.

Rik would have appeared in last year's parade, but the parade was cancelled because of the unfortunate events involved with the attack on the World Trade Center.



Barring any unforeseen events this year, the parade will be worth waiting for—a "Must See" feature, not to be missed.

In view of the nature of this event as a real Polish "first", there will no doubt be an interest taken by the various media to cover this event. Rik has been featured in several Polish-American newspapers, including the *White Eagle*, the *Polish-American Journal*, *Głos*, *Polonia Today*, and several issues of *Renaissance Herald*. He has received recognition by the Polish National Alliance, Polish American Congress, and the Polish Consulate, all in California, for his portrayal of Polish historic and cultural presentations.

So, let's make a point of attending this year's Pulaski Day parade and show support for an occurrence for the first time anywhere....

[At left: Rik {Sulima-Suligowski} Fox/Guildmaster The Polish Nobility Commonwealth Guild/ Pierwsza Oboz Zbroja Husarska w Stanach Zjednoczonych (The First Camp of Armored Hussars in the United States) and the First Polish-American of *Noble* Ancestry to represent the Winged Hussars in the History of the U.S.A. (on American soil)]. ☺

INTERNATIONAL NEWS, NOTES, AND CORRESPONDENCE

FROM THE WEBMASTER OF THE ORDER OF ST. STANISLAUS

Activities in Poland & the Ukraine

On September 15, 2001, a general meeting was held regarding the Association of the Knights of the Order of Saint Stanislas, in Częstochowa, Poland. Effective January 1, 2002, the Commanders are now directly responsible to the Grand Master, and the Grand Magistracy. There are now 16 administrative provinces within Poland, instead of the previous 48. The Grand Master felt it would be more appropriate to have these boundaries reflect the older historical provinces.

A delegation of the Prior of Greater Poland, based in Poznań, included Prior Count Tadeusz Stocki, CGStS, Chev. Dr. Marian Krol, BCStS, former Voivode of Poznań, and Father Janus Rakoczy, CSSStS, Chaplain to the Priory and curator of the Sanctuary of St. Stanislaus in Prusze. The Companions decorated His Eminence Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, a native of the Poznań region, with the Grand Cross of the Order. All three Companions were also received by His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

Between September 12th and 15th of 2001, several events were organized by the Grand Priory of the Ukraine, and took place in Kiev. On the 13th of September, 2001, the Grand Prior of the Ukraine, Chev. Pavlo Wyalov, GCCStS, gave a reception in honor of all guests at the restaurant Limpopoi in Kiev. On the 14th, an international Investiture ceremony took place in the Orthodox Christian Church of St. Andrew. Several very prominent Ukrainian citizens were invested, as well as the Ambassador of the Republic of Georgia in Kiev. After the investiture a banquet was held in honor of the new Companions of the Order, in the Cossack-Halli restaurant.

On the 15th, the second annual Ball to be held in Ukraine of the Order of St. Stanislaus took place at the Pushcha Ozierna complex. Traditional dances and songs were performed by prominent Ukrainian entertainers, and this was the lead-in to the Ball. Attendance included more than 200 Companions from many

parts of the world. Unfortunately, Chev. Michael Michaelski, GCCStS, was unable to attend, due to the events of September 11th in New York City.

Award of the Silver Cross of Merit

HSB Prince Julius Nowina-Sokolnicki announces the awarding of the Order of the Silver Cross of Merit to none other than the PNA's own webmaster, Margaret Odrowąż-Sypniewska BFA, PNA for her assistance to the Grand Master and the Grand Castellan during the years 2000 and 2001, in the establishing of the Castellan's Internet website, and the Polish Nobility Association's website. The PNA website has been visited more than 30,000 times to date. Both sites are linked and draw thousands of visitors daily, and the Order of St. Stanislaus (Castellan) can be found at the following address: <http://www.angelfire.com/realm/StStanislas/index.html>.

The PNA's own new website address at <http://www.angelfire.com/mn3/pnaf/index.html> has been in effect for the past several months, with many new subjects and topics covering a wide spectrum of Poland/Lithuania and the Commonwealth.

ITALY'S LOWER HOUSE APPROVES ROYAL RETURN

ROME, April 10 (AFP) – Italy's Chamber of Deputies marked another step in ending the exile of the former royal family Wednesday, approving by a large majority a constitutional change to allow them back into Italy after 56 years.

The 375-48 vote in the lower house matched the overwhelming approval of the senate in the first parliamentary vote on the issue in February. A further vote in each house is needed before the heirs of the House of Savoy can end their exile in Switzerland, but a safe passage seems assured as the move has the support of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia party.

Prince Vittorio Emanuele, 65, and his banker son Filiberto, 30, paved the way for the return of the royal house after they renounced all claims to the throne in

a formal letter to the senate earlier this year. The Savoys were banned in 1946 after they supported wartime fascist dictator Benito Mussolini and endorsed the deportation of about 8,000 Italian Jews.

The Communists, Greens and some members of the Democrats of the Left voted against Wednesday's proposal, as did two Forza Italia MPs. Fifty-four deputies abstained.

Emanuele is the son of Italy's last king, Umberto II, who died in exile in Switzerland in 1983.

LITHUANIAN NOTES

Last October, the LBKS (Society of Lithuanian Nobles) organized an excursion to Belarus and visited sites connected to Lithuanian history and several estates once owned by Lithuanian *Bajorai*. Leaving from Vilnius, the tour followed the old road that Vytautas would have taken on his way to the Black Sea. They first visited Jašiūnai, a Radvilas (Radziwiłł) possession since the 15th century, and Voronavas (English *Voranava*, Polish *Woronowo*), once a Gostautas property. Then it was on to Lyda (English and Polish name *Lida*), Naugardukas (English *Navahrudak*, Polish *Nowogródek*), Miras (*Mir*), and ending at Nesvyžius (English *Niasvizh*, Polish *Nieśwież*). Each one of these towns has been bound to Lithuanian history for centuries. Nesvyžius, for example, was the seat of Radvilas' dominions, and its cathedral holds 71 old tombs of their family ancestors. The group also visited the ruins of the nearby Radvilas estate, now in a sad state and needing extensive conservation and restoration.

The LBKS issues a glossy, illustrated magazine *Lietuvos Bajoras*, coming out once a year and containing brief English summaries. It has also published *Lietuvos Bajorų Palikuoniai* [The Descendants of Lithuania's Bajorai], a small volume containing short biographies of the association's members, embellished with their clan coats of arms.

Material is presently being collected for a book devoted to the manor houses and estates (*dvarai*) of Lithuania. These publishing ventures aim to heighten

awareness of and increase pride in Lithuania's rich history and cultural legacy. Since the Soviets held these subjects virtually taboo, several generations of Lithuanians grew up learning next to nothing about their own heritage. The LBKS intends to do its utmost to counter the ignorance and attitudes resulting from decades of lobotomizing Soviet instruction.

In addition to its publishing ventures, the LBKS organizes social events and lectures, and undertakes some charitable activities. Currently, it is also supporting the educational mission of several secondary schools. The association's calendar of activities is highlighted by a few special events, for instance, balls celebrating New Year and the Day of Independence. Last July, the coronation of Mindaugas was commemorated at the Verkiai estate.

Additional information about the LBKS and its affiliate here in the United States, the Society of Lithuanian Nobles, may be obtained by writing to them or visiting their websites:

Lietuvos Bajorų Karališkoji Sajunga
c/o Mrs. Undinė Nasvytytė
Stikliu g. 4
2024 Vilnius, Lithuania
Website: <http://www.geocities.com/bajorai>

Society of Lithuanian Nobles
c/o Mrs. Daiva Zygas
950 Lobster Trap Lane
Tempe, AZ 85283-1942
Website: <http://lithaz.org/nobles/about.html>

Postscript

Undinė Nasvytytė was re-elected the President of LBKS in the Parliament on April 27, 2002.

Audronė Musteikienė
LBKS Webmaster

DID YOU KNOW?

Two kings of Lithuanian blood ruled the Czech-Hungarian Kingdom for 55 years. Both were descendants of King (Grand Duke) Gediminas. The first was Vladislovas II (Władysław), son of Kazimieras Jogailaitis. He ruled from 1471 to 1516. He was succeeded by his son Liudvikas (Ludovicus) who ruled until 1526, when the Kingdom was overtaken by the Hapsburgs.

Recently a story in the *Chicago Tribune's* Sunday magazine reported that a famous city landmark was sold for \$900,000. The Victorian mansion, built 117 years ago and known as the Paderewski House, was the Polish Consulate in Chicago during the 1930s. The famous pianist Ignacy Paderewski once gave an outdoor concert for the community from the building's spacious veranda. The story mentioned that "one of the home's stained-glass windows commemorates Queen Jadwiga,* who, in the late 14th century married the pagan Lithuanian king (Grand Duke) Jagiello in order to save Poland and who was canonized as a saint in 1997 by Pope John Paul II." Although the article did not say why Jagiello married Jadwiga, any historian worth his salt will tell you that by this marriage, Poland and Lithuania united to become one of Europe's largest and most powerful countries.

* N.B. When Jadwiga's father Ludwig I "Węgierski" (the Hungarian) 1370-1382, died as King of Poland without any male issue, Jadwiga (albeit a woman) was called "King" until after her marriage to Grand Duke Jagiello, who became King of Poland, and she "Queen" of Poland. She reigned only two short years (1384-1386). King Władysław II Jagiello reigned from 1386-1434.

[From *Lithuanian Heritage*, with permission. Additional notes by your editor.]

COUNTRIES WHERE THE WHITE EAGLE JOURNAL IS READ

For many years, it has been our desire and goal to assist members of our worldwide network of peoples of Polish decent. We believe we can better assist Poles in the United States, Canada, Mexico Easter & Western Europe, New Zealand, Australia and many other nations where high numbers of Polish families have settled.

COUNTRIES: Australia; Belgium; Bulgaria; Cambodia; Canada; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Vatican City (Italy); Italy; Liechtenstein; Malta; Monaco; Netherlands; New Zealand; Norway; Poland; Saudi Arabia; Scotland; South Africa; Sweden; Switzerland.

UNITED STATES AND TERRITORIES: Alabama; Alaska; Arkansas; Arizona; California; Colorado; Connecti-

cut; Delaware; Florida; Georgia; Hawaii; Idaho; Indiana; Iowa; Kansas; Kentucky; Louisiana; Maine; Maryland; Massachusetts; Michigan; Minnesota; Mississippi; Missouri; Montana; Nebraska; Nevada; New Hampshire; New Jersey; New Mexico; New York; North Carolina; North Dakota; Ohio; Oklahoma; Oregon; Pennsylvania; Rhode Island; South Carolina; South Dakota; Tennessee; Texas; Utah; Vermont; Virginia; Washington; West Virginia; Wisconsin; Wyoming; American Samoa; Puerto Rico; Virgin Islands.

CANADA, provinces: Alberta; British Columbia; Manitoba; New Brunswick; Newfoundland; Northwest Territories; Nova Scotia; Ontario; Prince Edward Islands; Quebec; Saskatchewan; Yukon. ☞

DONATIONS TO THE PNAF LIBRARY BY COUNT TYSOWSKI

Count Tysowski, who graciously donated several tomes to our library, has added yet more volumes, gifts which we would like to acknowledge:

(1) *Cmentarz Łyczakowski, we Lwowie w latach 1786-1986* [The Łyczakowski Cemetery in Lwów during the years 1786-1986], by Stanisław S. Nicieja, (2nd corrected edition) Kraków, 1989.

(2) *Regalia Polskie*, [Polish Royal Emblems & Symbols], by Jerzy Lileyko, published by the Krajowa Agencja Wydawnictwa, Warszawa 1987.

(3) *Treasures from Poland*, The Art Institute of Chicago, Philadelphia Museum of Art and the National Gallery of Canada, 1966-1967, A loan exhibition from the State Art Collection of Wawel Castle, Cracow, The National Museum of Cracow, and the National Museum of Warsaw. The Lakeland Press, Donnelly Printing Co., Lancaster, Penn. USA.

(4) *Heraldry in Historic Houses of Great Britain*, by Thomas Woodcock and John Martin Robinson, The National Trust, Harry N. Abrams, Inc., publishers, U.K., London, 2000.

As soon as the last reporting is published, Mr. Tysowski will provide his final report on the topic of Treasures from Poland.—Editor. ☞