



WHITE EAGLE



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Fall Conference of the Polish Genealogical Society of America Highlights Polish Nobility

Dr. Felix W. v. L. Holewiński, P.N.A.F. President

"From Research to *Rodziny* (family)" was the theme of the 28th annual conference of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, held at the Schaumburg Marriott Hotel in the western suburbs of Chicago from September 8th through the 10th. Dr. Holewiński, President of the Polish Nobility Association Foundation, attended the conference not only as a member of the Society but in particular because of the special emphasis the conference placed on the nature of the Polish nobility was a social class in Polish history. As in the past the conference had its usual session concerned with the practical aspects of Polish genealogical research aimed primarily at Polish-American amateur genealogists. However, for the first time in many years the conference placed special emphasis on the nature, history and research into Polish nobility as a socio-economic class.

To highlight this area of concern the Society obtained as a guest speaker Mikołaj Pietraszak Dmowski. While his academic background is in German philology and art history and museum and gallery management, Polish genealogy and the derivation of Polish surnames is a hobby which have made him a very knowledgeable and gifted speaker on these subjects. Presently Mr. Dmowski is the secretary and member of the Board of Directors of the Raczyński Foundation at the National Museum in Poznań which was established Count Edward Raczyński, former Polish Ambassador to England and President of the Polish Government in Exile. In addition, of particular importance to the area of Polish genealogy is that Mr. Dmowski was the co-founder in 1987 of Towarzystwo Genealogiczno-Heraldyczne, the first post-1945 heraldic and genealogical society in Poland. Headquartered in Poznań, this society has been instrumental in assisting individuals in Polish genealogy and heraldry. Mr. Dmowski is personally

descended from one of the prominent aristocratic families in Polish history; he has traced and documented his lineage back through the medieval period.

During the Saturday, September 9th program of the conference, Dmowski delivered four lectures related to Polish nobility. In his first, entitled "Polish Last Names," he stated

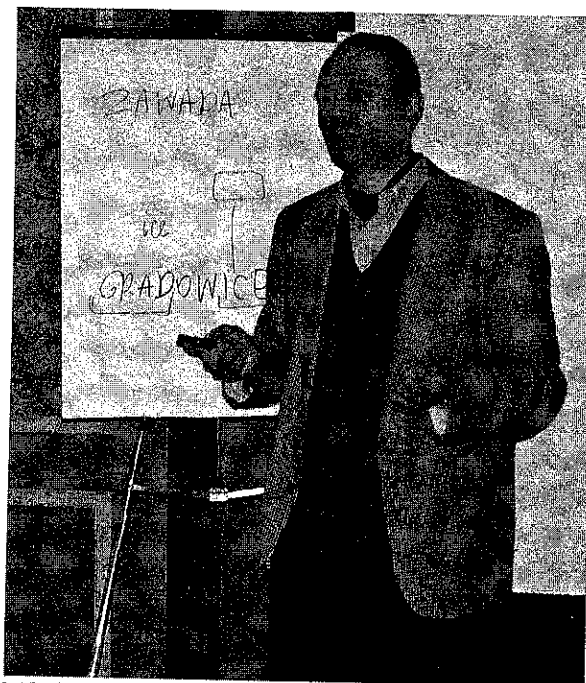
that one could frequently identify an individual's social class, region of familial origin, historic occupation and family history. He also emphasized, however, that this is not possible when applied to very common Polish surnames such as *Nowak* (meaning "new man"), which is the most common Polish surname. In some cases such common Polish surnames can be of noble or non-noble origins. For example, in the case of the name *Kowalski* ("smith"), also one of the most common surnames in Poland, those families with this name who were directly associated with settlements of that name are of noble descent; most families with that name, however, are descendants of non-noble ancestors who were smiths. In addition, many nobles with very common surnames attempted to differentiate their families from those

families of non-noble status with the same name by using nicknames or adding the name of their coat of arms to their surname.

After the previous introduction Mr. Dmowski open up the session to those in attendance, asking them to submit surnames and he would analyze their origins and nature of their associated families. Using this approach he identified several added catalogues of origins for surnames including the following:

1. Patrimonial names which developed from the first name (usually pagan names of some specific prominent

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Mikołaj Pietraszak Dmowski speaks at the Conference.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The Foundation has embarked on a new service which it hopes will contribute to its objective of better educating Polonia as well as the general public in the history and culture of the Polish Nobility. This service involves placing lengthy articles on the Polish Nobility in a supplemental section in the Foundation's Website, and in addition, placing past articles that appeared in the *White Eagle* on its Website as well. This will give both members of the Foundation as well as those interested in the work and objectives of the Foundation a general information base on the history and culture of the Polish Nobility from which to draw from as their need or interest may dictate.

Because of this new initiative we are asking any reader who might have any article, especially those of a scholarly nature on some aspect of the Polish Nobility, to please submit a copy to both myself and to Prince Dr. Roger Chyliński-Połubiński, Chairman of the Board, for review and possible



inclusion either on the Website or in the *White Eagle*.

I also wish to draw your attention to the work of Rik Fox (Suligowski), member of the Editorial Board. Rik has done excellent work in California promoting the visibility of Polish culture through his Polish reenactment group. Dressed as a Polish Hussar, he has been an excellent representative of the Polish Nobility Association Foundation at various cultural events on the west coast. There is extensive material on his activities in the supplemental section of the Foundation's Website.

Finally I want to mention Richard P. Poremski, who has contributed articles and information to the Foundation. Mr. Poremski has been an invaluable member of the Foundation, and we all look forward to his continued contributions to the work of the Foundation.

Dr. Felix W. v. L. Holewiński

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Solicitation of Articles

As part of the initiative to improve and expand the *White Eagle*, the Foundation is asking all of its members to submit scholarly articles related to the culture and history of the Polish nobility throughout Poland's history. Such articles may deal with a wide variety of topics of the culture of Polish nobility, from their clothing at various historic periods to their residences, values, forms of entertainment, or short biographical sketches of prominent nobles. Please submit any such articles to Dr. Felix W. v. L-Holewiński, felixwholewinski@msn.com.

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POLISH NOBILITY ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

Villa Anneslie

529 Dunkirk Rd.

Anneslie MD 21212-2014 USA

Adopted by the Board of Directors in a Simple Majority Vote, Winter 1997

MEMBERSHIP

1. **The Polish Nobility Association (P.N.A.):** This category is open to individuals whose names appear in the Polish-Lithuanian Nobility records of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth archives and reference sources. Many family names may be connected with more than one clan or shield. However, eligibility into the P.N.A. membership category rests in the identification of the listed surname, whether or not the arms (clan shield) is identified.

2. **The Polish Nobility Association Foundation (P.N.A.F.):** This category of membership is open to all individuals whose clan arms are not listed in the nobility reference sources of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, or institutions, such as libraries; other Nobility organizations; Monarchist organizations; etc. All P.N.A. members are automatically members of the Polish Nobility Association Foundation.

NEW MEMBERS and HERALDIC NAME SEARCH

Your support will assist the Polish Nobility Association Foundation to continue existing educational activities and expand membership services. Membership renewal will be invoiced for January of each year. The PNAF fiscal year for dues is January 1 through December 31.

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Fall Conference of the Polish Genealogical Society of America Highlights Polish Nobility

(continued from page 1)

member of the family or owner on an area of land. The name *Borawski* comes, for example, from the root *Bor* for the given name *Borzysław*.

2. Names from landmarks frequently used by ancient nomadic hunters
3. Names from villages or geographic areas associated with large family groups.
4. Names derived from characteristics of a large family group which might refer to physical or personality attributes.

Dmowski also pointed out that frequently a family name could have a variety of origins, hence, it is only through research that an individual can accurately identify the specific origins of their family name. For example, the name *Cholewiński* could come from several possible origins. The root of the name is *cholewa*, the upper part of a boot. Since boots were a very important indicator of one's socio-economic status in Polish society, the reference to one's boots may imply a reference that early members of this family

were noted for their boots and hence were prominent in their locality. *Cholewa* is also the name of a noble clan; hence, names drawn from this clan root, i. e., *Cholewa*, *Cholewski*, and *Cholewiński* were a way to claim descent from the original ancestor of this clan. They could also be used by non-noble families who wanted to assume noble pretensions by assuming a noble-sounding name.

Dmowski's second lecture was entitled "Sources for Research into Polish Noble Families." This presentation, however, was a something of a disappointment because of the presenter's difficulties with the multimedia equipment used in the presentation. Half of the available time of the lecture was used to get the computer/projectors to operate correctly, hence, Mr. Dmowski could not present some of his material. In addition, what he did present applied mainly to the great Magnate or aristocratic families of Poland and included a genealogical tree of one of the presenter's friends that displayed sixteen noble family quarters.

When Mr. Dmowski finally got to specific sources related to the nobility he only had enough time to cover such very

commonly known references as *Niesiecki* and *Boniecki*. He did, however, mention, that when doing genealogical research into noble families it was advisable to review old notary books that contained collections of regional legal documents, as well as the archives of old estates, tax rolls, and indexes of knights and nobles called up during military drafts.

Mr. Dmowski's third lecture was on Polish heraldry and was a very basic review of this subject, was directed at those who had little background in this area. He therefore explained what heraldry was and its early origins. He reviewed the major components of coats of arms, the use of tinctures (colors) and the indication of colors through hatching, the sides and divisions of shield, blazoning (how to describe the design of a coat of arms), and Polish heraldic terminology. Finally, Mr. Dmowski reviewed the ancient coats of arms of the Polish no-

bility, their origins, their special names, and their heraldic groups – tribe, clan, families and family groups. He discussed war cries, aristocratic titles and their use in Poland and provided a brief review of Polish heraldic literature.

During the evening lecture Mr. Dmowski was the keynote speaker, and he gave a presentation on the history of the Polish nobility. He reviewed the legendary and factual origins of the Polish nobility, the deriva-



Attendees at the Conference enjoy a performance by the Lajkonik Dancers during the Conference luncheon on Saturday, September 9, 2006. Photos courtesy PGSA.

tion of the word *szlachta*, the concept of *naród szlachecki*—the "noble nation"—and its democracy in comparison with other classes, their special rights, the free election process, and the *liberum veto*. Mr. Dmowski further analyzed the complex social class structure of the aristocracy, nobility and gentry and their ideals, religiosity, education, attitudes, and value system. Finally he discussed the life-style of the nobility, its castles, palaces, manor houses, villages, and the settlements of the petty gentry.

Dr. Dmowski's presentations at the conference were perhaps the most comprehensive treatment of the Polish nobility as a social class within Polish history ever attempted at such a conference. While Polish social and culture history were outside of Mr. Dmowski's professional and academic areas of expertise, his presentations were excellently done and well suited to his audience. There can be no doubt that his work and knowledge in this field is extensive and his appearance at this conference certainly added to a better understanding of the nature and importance of the Polish noble class in the history and culture of Poland. ☺

PNAF President Attends Polish White and Red Ball in Chicago

On Saturday, February 18, Dr. Felix W. v.L. Holewiński, President of the Polish Nobility Association Foundation, was the guest of Chev. Edmund Gronkiewicz at the 67th Annual Polish White and Red Ball in the elegant Grand Ballroom of the Chicago Hilton. This ball, one of the last grand white-tie debutante balls still held in Chicago, is sponsored by the Legion of Young Polish Women to raise money for various Polish cultural groups throughout the Chicago area. Last year the Legion donated a total of \$58,000 to various groups and activities, with the largest amount going to the Polish Museum of America.

Chev. Edmund Gronkiewicz, a prominent member of the Polish-American community in Chicago and friend of Dr. Holewiński, annually hosts two tables at the ball. Chev. Gronkiewicz, an attorney at a law firm headquartered in downtown Chicago, and a member of several prestigious orders of Knighthood, has supported the ball for many years. (See photograph at right of Chev. Gronkiewicz, standing to the left of Dr. Holewiński).

The Ball itself is one of the grand events of Chicago's social calendar, during which the finest young Polish-American debutantes of the area are presented formally to society. It is a spectacularly elegant affair in the finest traditions and costumes of Polish nobility. A fine dinner is followed by the formal ceremonies of the debutante's presentation and the dancing of the *Polonez* and the *Biały Mazur*. Dancing continued through the night to the music of the Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra.

Because of the prominence of the ball, many local and state civic and political leaders attend, including candidates for state and city offices. This year, for example, the Illinois



State Treasurer and Republican candidate for governor was in attendance.

The Master of Ceremonies of this year's ball was Wiesław T. Chodorowski, prominent Polish-American supporter and leader of numerous Polish cultural organizations and activities. As a member of the Polish Home Army during the Warsaw Uprising he was awarded the Home Army Cross, the Partisan's Cross, the Medal of the Army and the Defender of Warsaw Medal. For his post-war service in promoting Polish causes he was awarded the Cross of the Knight's Companion of the Order of Merit.

Above and below are photographs of the ball. ♀

NEWS AND NOTES

by Irena Uderska

Australia – Australia's gift to Britain to mark Queen Elizabeth II's 80th birthday is the magnificent Britannia state coach. This is the brainchild of the Australian monarchist and coach builder Jim Frecklington, who says "I think we live under one of the best systems in the world and why should we want to change it? I hope the Royals will continue to reign over our land for a long time to come."

Vatican – Prayers are now being said for the glorification on earth of the Servant of God Cardinal Raphael Merry del Val (1865-1930). The son of the Marquis Raphael Merry del Val and the Countess Josephine de Zulueta, he was Pontifical Secretary of State to Pius X, and also the President of the Academy of Noble Ecclesiastics. ♀



P.N.A.F. President Attends the *Bal Maskowy* in Milwaukee

In mid January Dr. Felix W. v.L. Holewiński attended the Grand Masked Ball or *Bal Maskowy* at the Wisconsin Club in downtown Milwaukee. Dressed as a 17th-century Polish magnate in a crimson *zupan*, fur-trimmed blue velvet delia coat and wearing a sash and Polish saber, Dr. Holewiński was approached several times by individuals who commented on his colourful attire. In one case a woman shouted out "Zagłoba, Zagłoba," referring to one of the main characters in Sienkiewicz's epic historic Polish trilogy. In another case an elderly gentleman came up to Dr. Holewiński and exclaimed that he remembered his father in Poland wearing almost the exact same attire in a costume ball in Poland. (See the photograph of Dr. Holewiński below.)

The grand ballroom was filled with guests in formal attire or in a variety of colourful costumes. After a four course dinner the night's entertainment opened with the Syrena Dancers doing the *Ogiński Polonaise*, followed by the *Grande Polonaise*, in which everyone was invited to participate. Soon most of the guests were winding their way in dance line around the floor and through the reception area to the stirring music of the Polonaise.

The high light of the evening, however, was the performance, by the Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble in full Polish military dress, of the *Lancer's Military Suite*. This suite, inspired by the song "The Last Mazur" by Fabian Tymulski (1828-1885), depicts a ball given in honor of the brave Polish Lancers during the Napoleonic Wars.

Among the guests are ladies who proudly wear Empire gowns, which were the height of fashion following the

lead of Napoleon's daring wife, Josephine. The gentlemen, handsome and debonaire, wear colourful and showy Lancer's uniforms, complete with swords and elaborate "shakos" on their heads. Opened earlier with the elegant polonaise, the ball is nearing the end. Just a few last dances with their beloved sweethearts: Chopin's exhilarating "La Grande Valse Brillante," a liltingly romantic Kujawiak composed by Henryk Wieniawski ... and finally, the passionate "Ostatni Mazur." The suite ends as the words of the last stanza of the song say: "...the bugle calls that it is time to mount our houses – this is the last *mazur*." And the gallant soldiers march off to the battlefield, while their teary-eyed ladies bid them farewell.

Below are some pictures of the Ball, including a picture of the Syrena Polish Group in their costumes for the Lancer's Military Suite, and below that a photograph of the performance of the suite itself. ♀



Polish Historic Period Reenacting in the United States: The Adversity and Rewards

Chevalier Pan Rik (Sulima-Suligowski) Fox, R.O.P., R.O.J.

Warmest Greetings Foundation members and Happy 2006. As you may recall, although I have been written about several times in the *White Eagle* in the past, I was recently asked, and then, re-introduced as, a newly elected member of the Foundation's Editorial Board in the Fall/Winter 2005 issue of the *White Eagle* by the current President, the good Dr. Felix Holewiński. As part of my duties, he has asked me "to contribute in an advisory capacity on all matters related to Polish historic reenactment activities and events, as well as matters related to 16th and 17th-century Polish military history and culture." To the uninitiated, and those who both have either, no prior experience(s) in these areas or, those who do, and can understand from where comes the following, as such, I begin my first offering, with some eye-opening, and hard-hitting, assorted feelings and observations on our personal experiences for the Polish historical re-enactor, in dealing with our past attempts to "pierce the veil," if you will, of the Renaissance Faire circuit in the U.S., which has not always proved a positive outcome. We've also had to deal with the severe lack of sincere and committed interest in our recruitment efforts. As a disclaimer, none of the following is to be construed as political in any way. These are purely personal experiences and in an advisory capacity. Yet, we strive to find other, more positive individuals and events which will welcome our presentations with open arms...

A disclaimer: While not all members of the other Polish re-enactment groups share all our particular observations, experiences and viewpoints, some have, and a "tip of the hat" of recognition is also mandatory at this point, which goes to the reenactment arm of the Sienkiewicz Society for some of their inspiring material, and some may recognize portions of their past conversations with me, following below...

Although **Suligowski's Regiment** was formed in late 1999/early 2000, originally as "The Polish Nobility Commonwealth Guild," we are a few years old, but in the "big picture" standards, we are, relatively speaking, a new group. We are also, according to research, the premier group of our type in United States History, making us unique, by many standards. Within the parameters of our presentation, our groups' membership has been, and is currently, open to virtually any type, age, gender, and ethnicity, any type of role (military or civilian), experienced with living history, and/or novices who want to learn, or those wishing to contribute in other ways.

WHY POLAND? THE BACKSTORY

The vast contributions of Commonwealth's arms and culture to our civilization are not yet well known enough – History tends to be written by the conquerors, and Poland was partitioned (*read: conquered*), by Russia, Prussia and Austria. Then, only to be subjected to the slavery of Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia. Sadly, much of this information

is also apparently suppressed in American history books to this day; as well ... Our educational mission is to redress and correct any omissions, and to raise Polish historic awareness. Starting roughly in 1995, while participating in Renaissance Faires in Southern California, and after representing other countries of *Western Europe*, the group's founder, Rik (Suligowski) Fox, had observed a severely noticeable lack of Polish representation of what was the largest land-area Nation of Renaissance Europe, at various festivals and events devoted to that *theme*. In addition, he himself, also being of Polish decent and having noble bloodlines to the Sulima clan, the path was set to be paved ... It was decided, that after researching the subject, there was found, no such representations, anywhere in the United States, and Rik decided in 1999, to establish the first such portrayal in U.S. history.

Other such groups across the U.S. have subsequently followed Rik's lead in the ensuing years after 2001, and began sprouting up from the Mid Atlantic States to the Midwest.

Our unit impression presents the material and military culture of the mid-16th to late 17th Century Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (Poland for brevity). Our presentation is a natural and excellent way to introduce both young and old to our History – If you share this interest, we welcome your help. A Commonwealth Unit offers the Polish (and non-Polish) historic re-enactor an incredible degree of versatility in Costume and Arms, in an army in which uniformity was rare, and where the wealthy sumptuously dressed to impress. A trooper in full Turkish armor and garb can stand next to an officer resplendent in the latest Paris fashions without the least bit of historical incongruity. This was an army that had cutting-edge cavalry and field artillery technology next to arquebusiers (musket-men), in the infantry and horse archers in the Tartar Light Horse cavalry. As stated, we focus on the late 16th to late 17th centuries.

ADVERSITY (A): RECRUITMENT/COMMITMENT

Since being located in Southern California, we've noticed, there has been a highly apparent, lack of interest (with regard to recruitment) in our presentation, which is just the opposite from our other, Polish re-enactment group-counterparts, located in the East and Midwest of the U.S. Our presentation and impression doesn't seem to equally strike the same fancy of most others enough to want to join, in California, and, our numbers tend to be somewhat smaller than other, more seemingly robust, or more popular, living history groups, with American Civil War being about the largest, give or take.

Another reason too, is that the Southern California Polish demographic is significantly smaller and more spread out, lacking a cohesive "Polish community" so prevalently found in the Polish Midwest and East coast areas. Therefore, we do ask a bit more of a commitment from our members,

simply because we do not have the numbers of a larger group to equally share in helping with all the tasks necessary to successfully bring across our presentation(s). Many other groups we've talked to usually have similar requirements.

We've also found, that most participants, especially in California, love to come out and 'play' but rapidly evaporate from commitment(s), when it comes to the need for many hands to help with set-ups and tear-downs. Should we be lucky to see our group numbers grow; these things should ease themselves out. Although experienced re-enactors and artisans are very welcome, you don't need re-enactment experience or all the right gear right off the bat. And, contrary to rumor, you don't *have* to be Polish or Lithuanian, or male, or interested in military ways or, any one thing in particular...

There are many ways to participate for many different people! There are many Polish individuals who are happy to participate in other types of historical re-enactment groups and not represent their heritage and ethnic background with us. (God knows why...)

Unlike other living history or re-enactment groups who see more successful, deeper-committed memberships (based on genuine interest in the subject or theme of the respective group), ironically, while the subject or theme of Suligowski's Regiment's 16th-17th century central European military life is very intriguing, it is not as popular or exciting enough to most onlookers to cause them to want to join. While some individuals may be intimidated at the potential costs of gear and costuming, most excuse themselves with the ubiquitous "Well, I just don't have the time", foregoing the fact that there really isn't that much time that we take up in a given individual's life. However, yeah ... "We get that a lot."

The time is what you make it. Subsequently, we suffer much less than the necessary critical mass in membership, even though we have had about 20 people in the group at any one time, but the core of our membership generally hovers around 2-4 people depending on how many active members we have at any given time. Why? Individuals come and go. They join and drop out for many various reasons. Frankly, we just don't have the time to figure it all out. Suffice to say, that virtually all those who have dropped out, had agendas that didn't match ours, and really weren't the *right* people for our group.

Exactly because of this, we have had so many members who didn't share the same level of passion, commitment, and vision, and that is why our group has not been able to grow and flourish in the numbers. We've also experienced, what is equally as potentially damaging, as having a neophyte member, dressed in a half-baked attempt at a Polish costume, waving a make-believe sword, touting misleading information, due to inexperienced research. The minute they open their mouth, they undermine all your hard work and one is caused to quickly and politely interrupt, and follow-up their poorly researched attempts, and gently correct their public-speaking...

Further, it's an obviously apparent reason that the subject of Polish 17th-century military is not as popular in the Western U.S., as it is more so, to the central and eastern U.S. where the interest and commitment levels are remarkably much higher. Apparently, there are considerably more individuals on the

east coast, for instance, who would love the opportunity to portray a dashing Winged Hussar or Pancerni cavalryman, and they do whatever it takes to get to that point. That is a major difference between re-enacting on the east and west coasts. And that is why we ask a higher level of commitment of those who do join the group, because everyone works, or no one plays. If you join our 'household', you must be prepared to sustain a certain level of commitment to our family members, and not join and then continuously come up with reasons to not participate at events and presentations. That only serves to defeat the original purpose of joining any group or organization. Don't get us wrong ... While it *is* all about sharing the Culture of Poland and educating others, it is also all about having *fun*. Fun is where *you* make it. If it's not fun, well, then, you're doing something wrong.

ADVERSITY (B): THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA POL-AM COMMUNITY

I am very sorry to report, the shame of this next topic. In our experience since formation, there is also, an apparent apathetic *interest* in our presentation from the Southern California Polish American community itself! While they love seeing Suligowski's Regiment and Husaria presentation appear and participate at their cultural events, heaven and earth would fall first before any noticeable amount of Pol-Ams would get off their collective and complacent rear-ends to come out to any other events representing our mutual history at any other locations.

This has been a constant source of frustration, and we are not without those who empathize with us. Kerosene and hand-grenades would do nothing to motivate those apathetic members of our Polish American community of Southern California. This very topic has been broached in deep discussion with the Pol-Am Clergy, as well as meetings with the leadership and members of the Los Angeles Polish American Congress, all to no avail. All in attendance agreed, that this, unfortunately, is a very sad and dark side of our Southern California Polonia, who lack the deeper interest and motivation to see their own 17th Century heritage represented outside of their own cultural community events. It seems that, in our observation, historic interest only begins at the era of Napoleon and then Kościuszko, which ties in with the Krakowiak dancers. Some Pol-Am community members have gone so far as to openly express not wanting to be reminded of the Polish nobility and the 17th century's ways, while; conversely, Pol-Am Veterans salute our efforts! It's been pretty much a 'mixed bag' all told.

Meanwhile, we do hear success stories from our other brothers, Polish-American re-enactors, in their own areas of operation across the U.S., who are so successful, they are in not only getting their local Pol-Am communities to come out and see their heritage represented, they are gathering interested potential members at a more rapid pace than is seen in here in California! The Polish American communities in the other areas of the U.S. who are much closer-knit, have far more interest than is seen displayed on the West Coast, sad but true. We can only hope and pray, that this will even itself out, and interested individuals will seek us out.

One would think that with the great overall weather in California, and large interest in living history itself, that Suligowski's Regiment would have a plethora of members. Yet, while we are more appreciated at military time line/ living history events, by both, visitors and the other participants, there is not enough time or interest for those already engaged in a persona to want to add the costs of yet, another persona to their interests. It then becomes a "conflict of interests." One would also believe that while participating at Renaissance Faires, we would have no trouble with picking up so many interested members; not so, read on...

ADVERSITY (C): RENAISSANCE FAIRES

Suligowski's Regiment, after some five years of trying to crack the "glass ceiling" and receive equal treatment and recognition from the Southern California Renaissance Festival circuit, has awoken and stopped participating altogether. Why? Renaissance Faires used to be fun, for a new outsider ... In addition to what has become the humorously referred to, ever tourist-popular and overly prevalent Renfaire-circuit themes of "The Liz & Hank Show" (aka, Queen Elizabeth I and Henry VIII), there seems to be a strong, inherent circle of adversarial negativity and "dark underbelly" of these Renaissance events, which do nothing to help elevate our participation to a higher noticeable presence. While jealousy becomes obvious by some groups, I cannot begin to address, some of the 'hoops' we have been made to jump through, in order to participate at these events. Further, most promoters refuse to pay or even assist with, any financial needs necessary to bring about such a fresh, and fascinating new presentation of Poland to their patrons. (Although you are allowed to 'pass the hat' to the crowd, who scurry away when your performance is over...). "Good Gentles, be these not the cries of 'sour grrrrapes'? Nay not, say I".

Technically, although the Renaissance itself, historically, was born in Italy of the 1600s (1550s), literally all modern-day U.S. Renaissance Faires are overly-dominated with said English, Queen Elizabeth and Henry VIII portrayals, due to so many of Hollywood's slanted films of the genre, not to mention the over-abundance of Fantasy and Fairy themes, as well as confused, samurai sword-toting Robin Hood-dressed individuals! We have tried, oh Lord, we have tried...

Our presentation tools are not exactly the same as most of the already established Renaissance "guilds," and some have even complained about how our encampment is laid out. (A "period" Polish impression is such a new concept which cannot be so quickly or easily explained, so, we possess some historically informative, non-period displays which tends to bristle the other participants, yet, however, are actually enjoyed by the general public). Also, not having large group-member numbers has a lot to do with this. (It's very difficult to show Poland as the largest nation of Renaissance Europe, in terms of land area, without the large membership-numbers necessary to back this fact up). Since the "strength in numbers" mentality is so prevalent amongst Renaissance events, there is a noticeable elitist-snobism and condescension shown towards smaller, inferior-numbered groups such as Suligowski's Regiment, and have, on occasion, found ourselves the point of various mean-

spirited ethnic and political jokes.

In addition, although historically, documentation can be readily found to support the fact, that, for example, the German *Landsknecht* [mercenary] forces fought both the side of and against King Batory's Polish forces during the Gdańsk Rebellion in 1576-77 and later joined Polish forces against Russians in the Muscovy Campaigns of 1579-82, (not to mention German mercenary participation assistance to the Poles during the Chmielnicki-led Cossack rebellions in 1648), literally every participant of today's Renaissance impressions that we have encountered, is not only completely clueless to this area of history, but some also, stubbornly and cruelly, maintain a World War II German mentality towards any Polish re-enactors and Renaissance impressions, thereby displaying a complete and utter audacity of willful ignorance towards any Polish historical impressions! Once condescended to by such lacking, bad Renaissance event actors, this type of sophomoric mentality spreads rapidly throughout the rest of the events and becomes shared by the rest of those bad actors, commonly and amusingly referred to as "circus people," due to the fact that they travel from event to event to participate in these faires, because they have no other significant outside life (merchants notwithstanding).

Add to this, the insult of actually having been accused of being anti-Semitic by a rather small, 'mom and pop', German/European-themed, Renaissance festival, while Suligowski's Regiment displays at all events, documentation of Poland being the first nation of Europe to give a safe haven from religious persecution to the Jewish people (which our group encourages to become members of), ironically, since all Polish period impressions could use the historical representation of those period Jewish merchants. In attempts for better Polish-Jewish relations, both the Anti Defamation League, and the A.C.L.U. have since, recognized and acknowledged Rik (Suligowski) Fox, for contributions to these organizations, who know where our hearts are. Such have been the trials and tribulations of merely trying to raise Polish historic awareness...

ADVERSITY (D): THE WEATHER

Although I can't speak too much in detail with regard to our other re-enactor counterparts in their respective areas of the United States, while the weather in our area of Southern California, for the most part is acceptable for most of the year.

The unfortunate part, is that virtually every event promoter has chosen to date their events during some of the hottest months of the year for some Godforsaken reason, despite the continuous lamentations from their participants who beg for dates during the cooler months. The California event season, more or less, usually begins somewhere in mid-March, and goes until about the end of October, which is still hot, with evening's cooling.

So, while elements of spring and fall have their mild-yet-fleeting moments, the balance gives the average re-enactor roughly seven months of good weather to work through. However, it is no easy task if your impression requires you to wear and bear the weight of sumptuous Royal, or noble dress, or, especially ... armor during 90+ degree weather!

One easily can have a difficult time breathing, in our respective "tin cans," while battle tactic demonstrations bring perspiring so heavily, that constant hydration can be nothing short of a medical emergency! (Remember, Poland's forces fought mostly, during the winters, so frozen rivers and marshes could be more easily crossed, so heavier clothing and armor was no problem).

This brings one to ponder the constant need to use the porta-potties while in a flowing *zupan*, sword belt, saber and armor!!! Then there is the need to make sure one has ingested a proper amount of vitamin-enriched foods to keep up ones' strength lest your knees give out. Hence the need to constantly ingest fruits, vegetables, pickles and deli-meats along with those tankards of ice-filled sports drinks ... Although this can be akin to a living hell, weather-wise, as I understand it, there's something to be said in counter-sympathy for our brother re-enactors from the Midwest to the Eastern States, who constantly endure those stormy, heavy winds, and rains, large mud-puddles and such, during their respective limited event season. Although it may be more realistic, and such a hardship for them, we out in California do not envy them one bit. When we do get a moments' respite with overcast, cooler weather, immediately, out come the heavier clothing and accouterments much to our delight at getting a fleeting taste of *real* European weather...

REWARDS: SUCCESS!

After all the adversity, yes, there *are* some rewards. Contrastingly, we have noticed a remarkably fresh and positive difference in participating in events where we are openly welcomed, acknowledged and recognized for our efforts. We tend to perform at more events than our Midwest and Eastern U.S. counterparts (since we have all but stopped participating in California Renaissance Faires), as there is a dire need to bring Polish culture and history out to more people in our areas, given the scattered Polish populations on the West Coast, as well as better weather generally, and opportunities to do so, like an occasional parade. We are participants *by request* at **The Old Fort MacArthur Days** (<http://www.geocities.com/fortmacarthur/tmacevent.html>), **Marching Thru History Exposition** (<http://www.marchingthruhistory.com>), and Military Time line events, at which Suligowski's Regiment wins continuous notoriety and awards of recognition. We also participate at several Polish community functions and events such as the annual **Proud to be Polish Day**, and **Dożynki-Polish Harvest Festival**. And of course, it bears repeating, that we have made U. S. history by our participation in the 2002 N.Y.C. Pulaski Day Parade (with the assistance of *Pan* Adam Bak of Adamba Imports, which, bitter-sweetly, went overlooked by Mr. Bak and his N.Y.C. Polish Consulate Award Ceremony).

A PROFOUND MOMENT OF TRUTH

It's been said, however, that what sets us apart (if not above) from the average re-enactor, is A) our **Polish Pride**, and B) the fact that while most other re-enactors are portraying someone else or other ethnicity of history, it is our ability to claim, as Pol-Am re-enactors, the rare and elite opportunity that we have the luxury and liberty to portray our very own

ancestors who actually lived this way. It is this "blood bond," this very reason, that we are in a class of and by ourselves, while other re-enactors fail to comprehend this and subsequently lose out on this ability and exclusive opportunity.

Only in Tyler, Texas have we recently found a Renaissance Faire that is represented by a 17th-century French Court-theme, and welcomes Polish re-enactors with open arms! We have opened a wonderful dialogue with the promoter of **The Four Winds Texas Renaissance Festival** (<http://www.fourwindsfaire.com>) for the Spring of 2006, as they have expressed a need to have their Polish Inn "rescued" (as a battle re-enactment show), from the local contingent of marauding and raiding Cossack plunderers, as can be seen for example, in the 1999 Polish blockbuster film *Ogniem i Mieczem* (With Fire and Sword) Suligowski's Regiment has been spearheading an attempt to contact and recruit, creating a movement (as would have been historically correct when the *Hetman* has the local Captains recruit men for a war) to motivate all the other U.S. Polish *szlachta* and Hussar units (and anyone else interested), to arrive and help lift the 'siege' such as at the Siege of Zbarazh in 1649. Anyone interested may contact Rik (Suligowski) Fox via the Internet at wngdhussr@yahoo.com, or through the P.N.A.F., for further information and updates. We look forward to making this a main, central U.S. location to which all other Pol-Am period re-enactors will come together, for such an event as never before seen in U. S. History!

Imagine, six to seven Polish Winged Hussars, Pancerni, and light cavalry, infantry and artillery impressions from participating units such as Czarniecki's Division, Orlinski's Polish Horse Artillery, Katski's Regiment, and various and sundry Polish S.C.A. (Society for Creative Anachronism) members, all in one place at the same time!

Of course, the main obstacle to this is the travel expenses and logistics which can prove to be a major hurdle. Any P.N.A. Foundation members who feel so predisposed as to help out with financial assistance, should also contact Rik (Suligowski) Fox for dispersal arrangements to help make this dream a reality! As once said: "Rik, while I thoroughly admire and appreciate the era of history you've chosen to present and portray, I don't envy you. You've really picked a hard-sell. I salute all your hard work and effort, although most others probably won't..." (Hal Lohr, Captain, Guildmaster, St. Paul's Guild of English Artillery & Foote, to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth Ist, Los Angeles, CA.)

Yet, despite all these shared adversities and rewards, Suligowski's Regiment and all the other U.S. Pol-Am re-enactors' groups are able to bring a majority of overlooked and forgotten about Polish military history and culture to the curious masses who, heretofore, have had no previous substantial and tangible knowledge of Poland's important contributions to history, (and perhaps, pick up a member or two in the process). The adversities have served to only make us stronger and enduring in our continuing efforts of further spreading Polish historic awareness and hopefully receive a good word of "Vivat! Well Done! We Salute You!"... (And maybe, a donation or two...).

Next Issue: **Husaria Battle tactics** 🐾

Brotherhood of the Rooster in Kraków

Text and photos by Richard P. Poremski <rppp@msn.com>

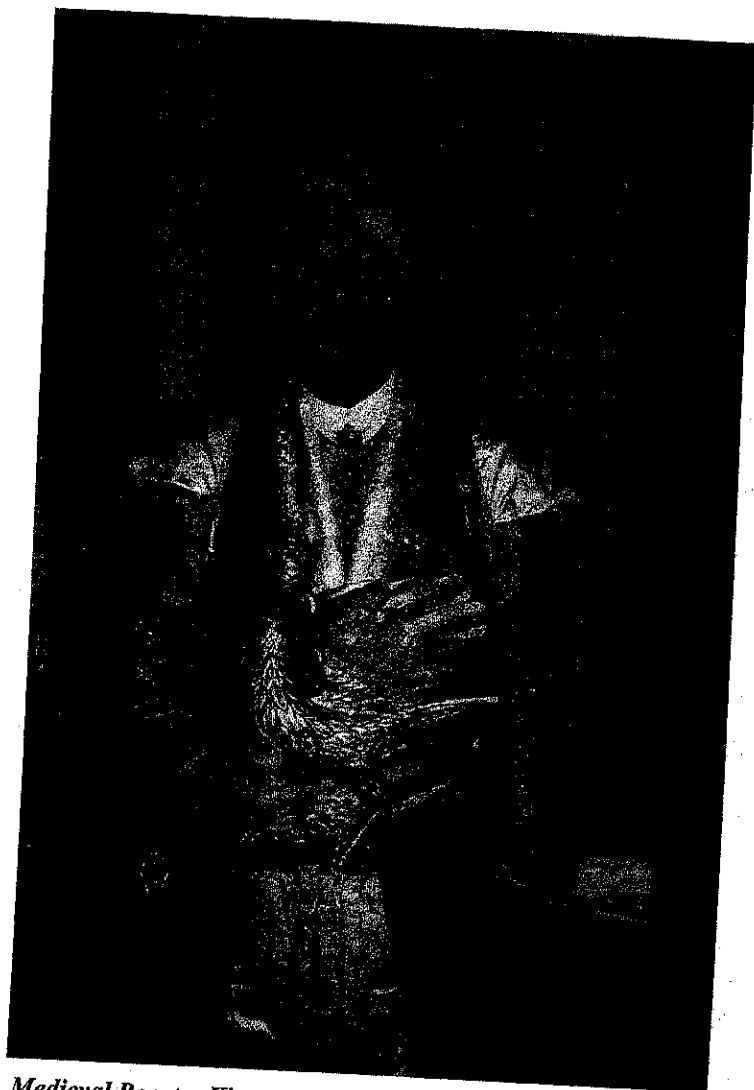
Washington, D. C.—A rare and very rewarding glimpse into the medieval society of Poland was provided here to a large audience on March 17, 2006 at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, under the auspices of Ambassador Janus Reiter and Consul General Paweł Bogdziewicz. Cultural Counselor Mariusz Brymora opened the event by introducing the Rooster King (Piotr Skalski) and his Brotherhood of the Rooster Shooting Society of Kraków. All were colorfully attired in a complete and correct style of the 16th and 17th century Polish nobility.

The Brotherhood/Society was founded in 1257 as Kur's Fraternity and later was also known as the Kraków Shooting Society. It was comprised of craftsmen and merchants whose responsibility was to defend Kraków against the numerous and always threatening invaders. Almost every large Polish city of the times maintained such a defensive militia. They had favored permission from the Royal Court to wear the finery of the nobility and landed gentry (*szlachta*), which was not allowed for the other townspeople. They trained first with bow/arrow, then the crossbow, and finally with firearms.

The name designation of Rooster is derived from the targets used by the Brotherhood in shooting contests. Early on live chickens and roosters were used as targets, and this practice eventually evolved to the shooting and a wooden rooster (*kur*) figure. And this is how the original name "Kur's Fraternity" was established, because *kur* means "rooster" in colloquial Polish. The association with rooster became even more apropos with the introduction of firearms, since the shape of the hammerlock strongly resembled a rooster/cock's head. So when the hammerlock was pulled back in preparation for firing, the descriptive term used was to "cock" the firearm" -- hence the moniker connection with Rooster.

From its very founding, the Brotherhood has been dedicated to proactive participation in the multifaceted civic life and rituals of Kraków and the fostering of religious traditions of the Catholic Church. Specific major objectives include construction of appropriate monuments, founding of commemorative plaques, bestowing its coveted Brotherhood awards, and the creation of special and unique flags, banners and standards. Most recently, for example, they have erected sizable monuments to Pope John Paul II in Kraków's Strzelecki Park (2000) and in Rome, Italy for the 25th anniversary of the Pontificate (2004).

There were very important and official brotherhood ceremonies conducted at the Embassy event concerning the U.S. Department of State and elder U.S. President George W. Bush. Gifts and special mementos were presented to Michael Sessums, Poland Desk Officer, and to Ann Hall, Designated Consul General in Kraków, who will assume that office later this summer. Janet Garvey, Director for Northern and Central European Affairs, accepted a special Order of the Brotherhood of the Rooster medal on behalf of President Bush, who accepted honorary Brotherhood membership three years



Medieval Rooster King Still Reigns Piotr Skalski (above) is the present King of the Brotherhood of the Rooster/Shooting Society in Kraków. Suspended by a flat, silver neck chain is a beautifully hand-crafted life-size silver rooster—adorned with a royal silver/gold crown and red bejeweled eyes—which has been the official symbol of the King's power and of the Brotherhood/Society since its founding in 1257.

ago at Wawel Castle when he visited Kraków (many other esteemed and prominent persons have been so honored with honorary membership, including Pope John Paul II). Hannah Reiter, wife of the Ambassador, was also favored with flowers and unique gifts. The evening's closing rituals were proof positive that the Brotherhood was still dynamically upholding its original charter and altruistic mission 749 years after its founding, and it will continue to flourish in the future for all the uncountable years to come.

You can find out more about the Brotherhood of the Rooster at their website: www.bractwo.kurkowe.krakow.pl. ☞



The Rooster King and Retinue. The King and Brotherhood members are depicted above in full and authentically correct costume of 16th- and 17th-century Poland. The attire is comprised of a kontusz (long coat), zupan (long gown), voluminous trousers and belt. The high leather boots are red with a black exception for the highest rank. Atop everything, the fur hat is adorned with unique, exotic feathers, fastened with a clip which in the past usually incorporated a prized family jewel. The attire is completed by a very decorative, wide sash, often in conjunction with a karabela (ceremonial sword).

P.N.A.F. Well Represented at Order of Saint Stanislas Investiture

*by © Hrabia (Wiesław) George Helon-Zieliński de Doliwa, KCSG, OMRI, GOMZ, CSSStS-JC, PNA, JP
Australian Representative of the Polish Nobility Association Foundation*

On Friday 31 March 2006 – and as a prelude to the Investiture of Postulants as Members into the Order of Saint Stanislas that was held on the following day – over 30 Australasian Members of the Order of Saint Stanislas, their families, friends, guests and Postulants attended a Cocktail Party at The Christchurch Club in Worcester Street, Christchurch, New Zealand.

At the Cocktail Party the atmosphere was one of fervent cordiality and friendship; in fact a number of visitors remarked at the aura of intense fellowship, belonging and comradeship that seemed to exist among those attending.

The Polish Nobility Association Foundation was well represented by: Hrabia Michael Kusza-Subritzky GCCStS (New Zealand Representative), Hrabia Basil Kusza-Subritzky, GCStS (Member) and Hrabia (Wiesław) George Helon-Zieliński de Doliwa, CSSStS-JC (Australian Representative).

Hosted by the New Zealand South Island Commandery of the Order of Saint Stanislas, the Investiture Service of 01 April was a significant event for two reasons; the first being that it was second ever Investiture held on New Zealand's South Island (Mainland), and secondly, it was the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Order in New Zealand.

The Investiture Liturgy and induction of Postulants into the Order as Members was held at the St John of God Chapel in Nash Road, Halswell, Christchurch.

Invested into the Order of Saint Stanislas were: Her Excellency Countess Elizabeth Kusza-Subritzky (Dame Class V), Dr Michael John Molloy (Chevalier Class V) and Kevin John Seque

(Chevalier Class V).

Attending from Australia was His Excellency Hrabia (Wiesław) George Helon-Zielinski de Doliwa, GOMZ, CSSStS-JC, PNA, and from the Cook Islands, Dame Jillian Sobieska, CSStS.

Also in attendance was Chevalier Barry Gadsby, GCLJ from the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, and from the Imperial Ethiopian Order of Saint Mary of Zion was Dame Jane Seccombe, CMZ.

The Presiding Celebrant was The Very Reverend Monsignor Gerald O'Connor, JCh.LJ, Vicar General who once again most enthusiastically attended to the divine needs of those in attendance.

Performing the dubbing formalities was His Excellency Philip Sherry, GCStS, the Order of Saint Stanislas Grand Prior for New Zealand.

His Excellency Hrabia (Wiesław) George Helon-Zielinski de Doliwa, GOMZ, CSSStS-JC, PNA was the Cross Bearer, Mantle Bearer and Postulant Minder, whilst the Sword Bearer was His Excellency Hrabia Michael Kusza-Subritzky, GCCStS, the Grand Chronicler for the Order of Saint Stanislas.

After the conclusion of the Investiture formalities a number of Members of the Order of Saint Stanislas were accorded Promotions within the Order: Chev. Emmett Mitten KCStS (Class V) to OCStS (Class IV); Chev. Bill Mehalski KCStS (Class V) to OCStS (Class IV) and Chev. Brenton Faithfull OCStS (Class IV) to CStS (Class III).

As a Personal and Special Gift of Recognition from the Prince Grand Master of the Order - His Serene Highness Prince Juliusz Nowina-Sokolnicki, Ct, GCCStS - their Excellencies: Chev. Philip Sherry, GCStS, Baron Kevin D. Couling, GCMZ, CSSStS-JC and Hrabia (Wiesław) George Helon-Zielinski de Doliwa, GOMZ, CSSStS-JC, PNA were each presented with Silver Crosses of Merit for Outstanding Services Rendered for and on behalf of the Order of Saint Stanislas.

And receiving Faithful Service Medals were: Chev. Brenton Faithfull, CStS; Dame Jillian Sobieska, CStS and His Excellency Hrabia (Wiesław)

George Helon-Zielinski de Doliwa, GOMZ, CSSStS-JC, PNA.

After the Investiture Liturgy had fully concluded, the newly Invested Members into the Order of Saint Stanislas, their families, friends, guests and other Members reconvened



Hrabia Michael Kusza-Subritzky GCCStS (Left), Hrabia Basil Kusza-Subritzky, GCStS (Centre) and Hrabia (Wiesław) George Helon-Zielinski de Doliwa, CSSStS-JC (Right). Image © Hrabia W.G. Helon-Zielinski de Doliwa, 2006.

at The Christchurch Club in Worcester Street where over 35 persons attended a formal Black-Tie Dinner and enjoyed an absolutely superb three-course meal.

During the evening's proceedings His Excellency Colonel Martin Devlin GCStS and His Excellency Hrabia Michael Kusza-Subritzky, GCCStS recounted the history of the Order of Saint Stanislas and spoke of the founding 10 years earlier of the Order in New Zealand.

Chev. Emmett Mitten OCStS spoke quite comically about his days as a "Deputy Commissioner of Police" for New Zealand, notwithstanding the fact - and the irony of the "Constable" for the Order of

- that he was just appointed the Saint Stanislas in New Zealand.

For further information on the Order of Saint Stanislas please visit the Website at <http://www.saintstanislas.com>.

Program Featuring the Poetry of Dame Barbara Bromont-Sławińska, P.N.A.F. Poet Laureate

On October 16, 2005 a special program was held at the Independence Museum in Warsaw, in honor of the late Pope John Paul II and featuring the poetry of P.N.A.F. Poet Laureate Barbara Bromont-Sławińska. It included songs performed by soprano Agnieszka Pilewska, accompanied by Dr. Janusz (John) Sławiński on the piano.



Above, Dr. John Sławiński plays the piano. At right, Dame Barbara Bromont-Sławińska (standing) speaks. In the background to her right we see Agnieszka Pilewska, seated.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS, NOTES, AND CORRESPONDENCE

Irena Uderska, Associate Editor and London Correspondent

South Africa – Following the death of the last Rain Queen Modjadi VI of the Balobedu without an obvious heir, the Nhlapo Commission on Traditional Leadership Disputes and Claims is dealing with the thorny problem of the succession. Two male claimants, Sello Mokoto and Jaku Maake, have come forward. The Mokoto family ruled between 1500 and 1800, while the Maake ruled prior to the arrival of the Balobedu. Both claimants believe that “Modjadi is also about Kingship” and that “the Queenship, which is ceremonial in nature, has to be uplifted to the position of a King.”

UK – John Zylinski has remodeled his Arts and Graphics house in Ealing, West London, so that it is now a replica of his family palace Gozdowo near the Ukrainian border.

Germany – On April 2, 2006 the death took place of Countess Nina von Stauffenberg, the widow of the heroic Colonel Count Claus von Stauffenberg, who was immortalized for his leading role in the 20 July 1944 plot to assassinate Hitler. She was born Baroness von Lerchenfeld. The eldest of Count Claus and Countess Nina's five children, Bethold, was a General in the postwar German army.

Croatia – the death took place 10 February 2006 of Count Jakob Eltz, a Croatian aristocrat who inherited estates in Germany and Western Slavonia and Vukovar. The Etlz family acquired the Lordship of Vukovar in 1736 and Etlz Castle in Vukovar remained their principal seats till the end of World War II. In 1991, after Croatia seceded from Yugoslavia, Count Jakob was asked to return to Vukovar. He took an active part in the city's defense when it was under siege. Tragically, Etlz Castle was destroyed in the Serb bombardment. When Croatia held its first parliamentary elections in 1992, Count Jakob stood as an independent candidate and was elected with an overwhelming majority. He was a member of the Croatian Parliament in Zagreb till 1999. Jakob was also a professor of viticulture at Mainz University.

France – Count Christophe Walewski, the son of Count Florian Walewski and a direct descendent of Napoleon, is engaged to marry Louise, the daughter of Count Pierre de la Rochefoucauld.

Poland – The death took place in Warsaw on January 2, 2006 of Prince Michael Czartoryski, the son of Prince Roman Czartoryski. Also, in early February 2006 to death took place of Prince Adam Tadeusz Zdzislaw Czartoryski, the son of Prince Zygmunt Czartoryski.

Belgium – The engagement has been announced between Countess Elizabeth d'Udekem d'Acoz, the sister of Crown Princess Mathilde, and the Marquis Alfonso Pallavicini.

UK – The producer Ismail Merchant's last film *The White*

Countess is now showing in the UK. It is set in Shanghai in 1936-1937. The part of Countess Sophie, a highborn Russian reduced to poverty and prostitution to support her family in the Shanghai slum, is played by Natasha Richardson.

UK – The death took place February 13, 2006 of John Brooke-Little, the former Clarenceux king of Arms. John Brooke-Little founded the Heraldry Society in 1947 and was editor of its magazine *Coat of Arms*. He was also a patron of the Constitutional Monarchy Association.

UK – In January 2006 the actress Rula Lenska, born Countess Rosa-Marie Lubienka, took part in the populist reality television program “Big Brother.” When asked why she was doing this, Rula Lenska replied, “I’m a crazy Polish Countess who likes a challenge. It will hopefully positively broaden people's horizons as to who I am.”

London – Of the death took place January 27, 2006 of Prince Carol of Romania, the son of King Carol II by his first wife, the Romanian aristocrat Zizi Lambrino. Prince Carol's widow, Antonia, is the daughter of Major-General Edward Colville and niece of Sir Richard Colville, the Queen's former press secretary. Antonia Colville's sister, Jane, was the second wife of Prince Martin Lubomirski.

Canada – The death took place February 1, 2006 of the eight Marquess of Ely. Although a Canadian, Lord Ely frequently came to London to attend debates in the House of Lords. He regarded the expulsion of the hereditary peers as an active “constitutional vandalism.”

Japan – The news of Princess Kiko's pregnancy has delighted Japanese traditionalists. Princess Kiko is the wife of Prince Akihito, Emperor Akihito's younger son. Should this child be a male heir, there would be no need to alter the succession to the Chrysanthemum Throne.

UK – The Queen's cousin, the Marquess of Milford Haven, will make £ 105 million from the sale of uSwitch. Lord Milford Haven found this business in 2000 and owns 50%. This is a real reversal of fortune, as in 1994, the Marquis had to sell Moyns Park, his family home. At that time he was also sued by Coutts Bank, while other creditors tried to bankrupt him.

UK – Another English aristocrat who has made a fortune is Duncan Davidson, the grandson of the 15th Duke of Norfolk. He is currently stepping down as executive chairman to become life president of Persimmon, the building company he founded and named after a Derby winner. At 13 Duncan Davidson was a page boy at the Queen's coronation. At 18 he was a labourer digging the Blackwell tunnel. Now he is a landowner farming 20,000 acres in Northumberland.

UK – The *Daily Express* has launched a campaign for the abolition of Inheritance Tax. Readers have in their tens of thousands signed a petition stating “there is no justification for the unfair Inheritance Tax” and demanding that it “should be abolished immediately.” They have told Chancellor Gordon Brown. “We have had enough of your grave robbery.”

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UK – On March 10, 2006 two English members of the European Parliament published a letter in the daily telegraph calling on President Kaczyński to restore property confiscated by the Communists in Poland to its rightful owners. Those gallant MEPs are Charles Tannock (Conservative) and Gary Titley (Labour).

Here is the text of their letter:

SIR – Poland is unique among new EU member states in failing to take measures to reconstitute land confiscated under communism to its rightful owners. We have pressed the previous Polish government, led by President Kwasniewski, to make amends, but nothing was done.

We hope for a more constructive attitude from the administration, and we have written to President Kaczynski asking him to get this issue to the attention it deserves.

Poland's failure to address the matter is a stain on reputation and is unworthy of the country held in such high esteem by its EU partners.

There are many Polish émigré's and their descendants living in our constituencies as part of a thriving diaspora. Many of them were subject to confiscations and often immediate evictions from their ancestral homes. Moral and legal considerations justify their claims for some sort of redress. It is long overdue.

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UK – On April 7, 2006 Christian, Lady Hesketh, died at the age of 76, she personified the principle that private privilege conferred an equal obligation to public duty, she was also a gifted writer and historian. She was unceasingly supportive of her adopted County, Northamptonshire, where for many years after the early death of her husband, Freddy, 2nd Lord Hesketh, she presided over Easton Neston, Hawksmoor's only country house.



We are deeply saddened to announce that on 5 March 2006

**Countess Ludwika Maria Tyszkiewicz
nee Sobański**

died in Los Angeles after a short illness.

Her son, Adam Tyszkiewicz, and his wife Hanna

But Lady Hesketh also found time to pursue her natural bent as an historian and her town for writing. She was a local committee member of the Victoria County History, and her passion for Scottish history was sealed with a standard work on the history of tartan, a biography of the 17th-century Viscount (“Bonnie”) Dundee (with Magnus Linklater) and a doctorate at King's College, London, for her thesis on Charles I's political dealings with the Scots before the Civil War. She consolidated her husband's distinction is a book collector by commissioning David Hicks to design a library at Easton Neston and through her election to the Roxbourgh Club.

Christian Mary McEwen was born at Marchmont, in Berwickshire, on July 17, 1929, the only daughter and third child in a family of seven. Her father – a poet, soldier and member of Parliament – was Sir John McEwen, 1st Bt of Marchmont and Bardrochat (in Carrick), and it was at these two country houses, and at Beaufort (also now sold), that she spent her childhood. (From the obituary in the *Daily Telegraph*, April 12, 2006).



Dorothy “Doda” deWolf, 76, a vice president of Begg Long and Foster, and a much loved doyenne of Washington, died at her son's home in Chevy Chase in the early hours of August 3rd. She finally succumbed to a year-long battle with cancer.

Born Princess Dorota Drucka Lubecka in Poland, she was the daughter of Prince Francis Xavier and Countess Hegwige Oppersdorff. In 1944 the family fled their ancestral home in Baltow, Poland. The eldest of five girls, she then lived in Paris with her family until coming to America in 1952. She began working as an au pair in Wisconsin, sending money home to help her family – one of the many “displaced” persons of World War II. She later worked for Elizabeth Arden, managing its then Flagship store on Connecticut Avenue.

She met Francis Colt deWolf Jr. in 1958, and they married in 1960. After her marriage, Doda began her very successful Real Estate career at Begg -now Long and Foster - and remained there for over 30 years, winning numerous awards in her field.

Although very proud to have become a US citizen and grateful that her children were born in this country, she never lost her love and dedication to Poland. Throughout her life in the United States, she remained very active in Polish affairs, including spearheading a Polish Cultural Center in Washington, and a large scale Polish Aid Campaign during The Cold War. Shortly before her death, the Polish Government was preparing to honor her with a medal for services to her native Country. This will now be awarded to her posthumously.

She is survived by her two children, Lindsay McKell and Francis Colt deWolf III, and her beloved grandchildren, Paige, Lane, Piper, Colt and Maximilian.