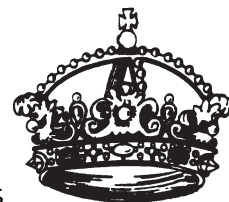




# WHITE EAGLE

JOURNAL OF THE POLISH NOBILITY ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION  
PUBLISHED SEMI-ANNUALLY, PROVIDED TO LIBRARIES IN OVER 30 COUNTRIES  
WORLDWIDE



SPRING/SUMMER 2008

WEBSITE: PNAF.US/

## "A HERO OF TWO NATIONS" - BRIGADIER GENERAL COUNT KAZIMIERZ PULASKI -

BY  
RICHARD P. POREMSKI

The Embassy of the Republic of Poland, here on October 25, 2007, was the proud presenter of the new Polish film (with English subtitles) fully documenting the heroic life and revolutionary times of Count Kazimierz Pulaski. Cultural Counselor Mariuz Brymora, assisted by Zanetta Miluk, was coordinator and host for the prestigious event.

The film was shot on actual historic locations in Poland, Ukraine and America, over a 5 year period. It accurately documents the life and times of Count Pulaski and his noble family, with emphasis on the patriotic activities and revolutionary circumstances that forced Pulaski to flee his beloved homeland of Poland, which was then under the domination of imperialist Russia. Pulaski ultimately carried his fight for freedom to America. During the Revolutionary War against England, Count Pulaski eventually went on to become a brigadier general in the U.S. Continental Army, and is recognized as the "Father of the American Cavalry."

The audience was very fortunate to have present the film's producer – Jolanta Chojecka, and her son - actor Jacek Chojecki, who portrayed Count Pulaski on the screen. They both spoke and answered many interesting questions at the conclusion of the viewing. A most valuable aspect of the documentary was the inclusion of Edward Pinkowski and Francis C.



*Herb Slepowron - Pulaski Clan Arms*

Kajencki - two eminent Polish-American historians and Pulaski chroniclers – who contributed their insightful comments and enlightening vignettes not normally presented about Pulaski's life and his feats.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (S.A.R.) – represented by Lester A. Foster Jr., Edwin Dotter, Barrett L. McKown, Paul M. Hays, and Stewart Boone-McCarty - made a very impressive appearance in their accurate and detailed Revolutionary War uniforms. But just as

impressive was

a true replica of Pulaski's Banner that they carried; it was later generously presented as a gift to the Polish Embassy for permanent display under Pulaski's portrait. The S.A.R. also awarded its bronze Good Citizenship Medal to producer Chojecka.



*Jacek and Jolanta Chojecki*

**continued on page 5**

---

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

After I finished the article, in this issue, concerning Polish magnates I shared the draft with several friends at my local cigar bar. They were well read professionals with whom I had discussed a wide range of topics including history and politics. After reading the article they complimented the article, but their primary reaction was one of surprise. One individual remarked that he had no idea that Poland ever possessed the kind and magnitude of wealth described in the article, or that any significant segment of Polish society ever possessed the cultural sophistication also mentioned in the article. They both asked why this type of information about Poland and history is not better known, and why erroneous and unfavorable stereotypes have become the dominant image of Polish history and culture in the United States. This reaction highlights a critical problem for those of Polish ancestry in the United States: the average American, including those of Polish descent, knows virtually nothing of Polish history and culture. As a consequence, American society falls back on the long held prejudicial stereotypes created within American society starting at the turn of the twentieth century. What is even more troubling is that while Polish jokes are no longer considered acceptable in polite society, unfavorable stereotypes of Polish culture and a lack of any knowledge and appreciation of Polish history and culture not only continues to exist but, with respect to a knowledge and appreciation of Polish history and culture, is actually growing.

There are a number of reasons why Americans, including those of Polish ancestry, know almost nothing of Polish history and as a consequence have little appreciation of the richness and contributions of Polish culture. One of the major factors is that the coverage of Polish history and culture in our public schools at the secondary level, while never very extensive, is now almost non-existent. This has happened because of the advent of

*continued on page 3*

---

## POLISH NOBILITY ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION


### BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

\*Dr. Roger, Kniaz Chylilnski-Polubinski, Chairman  
 \*Dr. Felix von Leski-Holewinski, President  
 Chev. Leonard Sulima-Suligowski, Emeritus  
 \*Thomas Czerwina-Hollowak, Web Master  
 Msgr. John, Radawan-Abucewicz, Chaplain, New Hampshire  
 Dame Barbra Bromont-Slawinska, Poet Laureate, Poland  
 Judge Theodore P. Jakubowski, Southeast USA  
 Hrabia Wieslaw George Helon-Zielinski de Doliwa, J.P., Australia  
 David P.J. Sas-Tysowski, Canada  
 Hrabia Michael Subritzky-Kusza, New Zealand  
 Dr. Wladzimierz, Baron Korab-Karpowicz, Turkey  
 Irena Niezgoda-Uderska, United Kingdom  
 Aleksander, Kniaz Giedroyc, Ukraine

### COLLEGE OF HERALDRY

Chev. Leonard Sulilma-Suligowski, Director of Heraldry Emeritus  
 Thomas Czerwina-Hollowak, Archivist  
 Hrabia Michael Subritzky-Kusza, Researcher

\*Members of the Executive Committee

For genealogical, heraldic and historical purposes, titled members are recorded with their family hereditary titles. 

## WHITE EAGLE

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

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

Deadlines for submission: May 15 & November 15.

### Editorial Board

Dr. Felix v. L. Holewinski  
 Thomas L. Hollowak  
 Irena Uderska  
 Richard Poremski  
 Alexander Lisiewicz-Liston  
 Richard F. Olszewski-Oles  
 Leonard J. Suligowski - Emeritus  
 Rik Fox

*All material submitted for publication is subject to editing for content and available*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT *(continued from page 2)*

political correctness and our rising obsession with the sacrosanct ideal of “diversity.” The amount of time available to the teaching World History at the secondary level has not changed in decades; yet because of the push for cultural diversity, African American, Hispanic, and Asian history and culture has been added to such secondary school curricula. To do this, therefore, something had to be eliminated from the curriculum, and this “something” has been units on European history and culture which frequently was material on specifically Eastern European history and culture. The result of this educational development is that students of Polish and Eastern European descent learn nothing of their own ancestral cultural background, but must learn that of such minority ethnic groups as blacks, hispanics and Asians. It is clear that when educators talk about diversity education they are not talking about all of the ethnic groups within the United States, but rather primarily of non-European ethnic groups.

One way of confronting this problem is to change world history curricula as it exists in most public secondary schools. First, we need to develop a comprehensive curricular instructional unit on Polish history and culture for secondary schools which can be used by teachers as an integral part of their classroom presentations, or as an independent studies unit which could be used for extra credit or as part of regular classroom assignments. Currently various Polish-American organizations have put together such supplemental instructional material; however, they tend to be fragmentary and aimed primarily at the elementary school level. Second, we need to contact the administration and Boards of Education of school districts that have students of Polish descent and press for the inclusion of such instructional units in their world history curriculum. Third, because of the financial problems faced by most public schools throughout the nation, such supplemental instructional units should be provided schools free of charge. To do this, Polish-American organizations should band together and pool their resources to allow the production of such supplemental instructional units.

The ideas I have presented here will not alone solve the public’s ignorance concerning Polish history and culture, but they will at least start addressing this problem which has largely been ignored by the nation’s educational community. ❀

### SOLICITATION OF ARTICLES

All members are encouraged to submit articles for inclusion in the *White Eagle Journal*, especially those that relate to the history and culture of the Polish nobility as a class throughout the history of Poland. This appeal is especially addressed to all those members with an academic background in history or who have some expertise in some aspect of Polish history or culture. All articles should be limited to no more than three type-written pages. If you have any pictures to enhance your article please enclose these as well.

All submittals longer than three pages will, if felt appropriate, be included on the Foundation’s web journal and a brief preview article will be placed in an issue of the *White Eagle* alluding to its location and content. It would facilitate the editing if articles could be sent as an email attachment or put on a cd-rom using Microsoft word; if this is not possible then submittals of typed hard copy would be acceptable. Please submit any such articles to Dr. Felix W. v. L-Holewinski.

### CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

Kazimierz Pulaski .....	1
From the President’s Desk.....	2
Solicitation of Articles.....	3
Lady Blanka Rosenstiel.....	4
Life Styles of the Magnates.....	6
International News .....	8
Longfellow’s Hymn .....	10
Dues, Donations and Fees.....	10
Duke of Bavaria .....	12





## 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHOPIN FOUNDATION PNAF MEMBER DECORATED BY POLAND

BY  
RICHARD P. POREMSKI



*Left to right: Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Kazimierz Ujazdowski, Ambassador Janusz Reiter, and Mrs. Jadwiga Gewert*

The 30th Anniversary of the Chopin Foundation of the United States was celebrated in Washington, D.C. on October 18, 2007 at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland. Cultural Counselor Mariusz Brymora hosted the gala black tie event.

The evening began on a very high note when Ambassador Janusz Reiter presented Chopin Foundation Founder Lady Blanka A. Rosenstiel with Poland's *Gloria Artis* medal, and its Executive Director Jadwiga Gewert with the *Distinguished For Polish Culture* badge. Kazimierz Ujazdowski, Poland's Minister of Culture, issued the awards to recognize the Foundation's outstanding achievements in the promotion of Polish culture.

We are very proud to report that the distinguished Lady Blanka A. Rosenstiel is a long term member and active supporter of the Polish Nobility Association Foundation. Her Polish cultural interests and programs do truly ennoble her to Poland, Polonia and the PNAF.

The highlight of the evening was a delightful concert by the much accomplished pianist Wendy Chen. Her varied program included the works of Chopin, Liszt, Brahms and Rachmaninov. The young Ms. Chen has won numerous competitions and is the recipient of many awards; she has performed in many different music venues, as a soloist and with chamber orchestras, both here and abroad.

The non-profit Chopin Foundation, founded in 1977, states that its purpose is to help young talented American artists in their career development and to make classical music accessible to the broad audience. And that is exactly what the musical foundation has been doing quite successfully over the past 30 years. 🌹



*Left to right: Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Wendy Chen, and Mrs. Jadwiga Gewert*

Photographs by Richard Poremski

---

## COUNT KAZIMIERZ PULASKI *(continued from page 1)*

Pulaski's Banner (oriflamme), measuring a diminutive 23 inches x 20  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches, is constructed of double crimson silk, with embroidered gold letters, symbols and designs, bordered by a golden fringe. One face reads *Unitas Virtus Forcior* (Union Makes Valor Stronger), and the other face *Non Alius Regit* (No Other Governs). And historically, this is the very first time that the two large entwined letters "US" were used on any national flag or banner to represent the name of the United States.

The Moravian Nuns of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, impressed with the freedom-fighting Pole and his selfless cause, made and presented the banner to Pulaski in 1778, while he was visiting hospitalized Gen. Lafayette there. Henceforth the banner was borne afield attached to a cavalry lance and was always carried aloft in the vanguard of the Pulaski Legion. Later, in 1825, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow glorified Pulaski's banner with a poem entitled "Hymn of the Moravian Nuns of Bethlehem" – 'At the Consecration of Pulaski's Banner.'



*Pulaski by Jan Styka*

General Pulaski gave this standing, irrevocable order to his Legion: "You are to follow this banner wherever it goes." And well they did...even fearlessly charging through the 'gates-of-hell' maelstrom of shot and shell during the battle of Savannah, Georgia on October 9, 1779...where Pulaski, age 31, was mortally wounded by the British guns. Fate rewarded his bravery and fight for freedom with a hero's death – thus enshrining him forever in that coveted place of honor that both Poland and America reserve for their felled patriotic sons.

Count Kazimierz Pulaski, immediately upon arriving on our far and war-torn shore in the summer of 1777, stated with firm resolve and true conviction that, "I came here to hazard all for the freedom of America."

And only two years and three months later, the dashing Polish nobleman did just that. 🇺🇸

---

## GIEDROYC MEMORIAL PLAQUE

BY  
ALEXANDER JAN PRINCE GIEDROYĆ

This year in Kiev (the capital of Ukraine), we are planning the unveiling of the memorial plaque to Vera Ignatievna Princess Giedroyć, who was the first woman surgeon in the Russian Empire, among her patients were the children of the last Czar Nicolas II Romanov. She was also renowned as a poet and essayist.

My family is also now preparing the installation of a memorial plaque to Konstantin Kaetanovich Prince Giedroyć, world famous pedologist-scientist, who studied in Kiev at the St. Vladimir's cadet corps. We hope to succeed in both of these projects.

These individuals, Polish-Lithuanian princes, did many things for the Ukrainian people. Unfortunately, in today's Ukraine few people remember it. To the unveiling, as before, we are going to invite the Ambassadors of Poland and Lithuania, as well as representatives of medical, cultural and scientific circles.

## LIFESTYLES OF THE MAGNATES DURING THE TWILIGHT OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Most of Polish history was characterized by completion and conflict between the magnates (the wealthiest of the noble families) supported by the upper levels of the aristocracy and the gentry. This struggle swayed back and forth between each group from century to century, with power shifting from one to the other; however, by the start of the seventeenth century, the magnate families, along with their allies became increasingly dominant.

This was primarily caused by the riches incurred through the Vistula grain trade which benefited all segments of the nobility but was especially profitable to the magnates because of the size and scope of their far-flung latifundias and the diversification of their assets.<sup>1</sup> Their incredibly large land holdings frequently surpassed the size of some European countries: typical of such latifundias were the estates of the Radziwills (which included 16 cities, 583 villages, 6000 retainers and 300,000 serfs) or the Potockis (who owned three million acres with 130,000 serfs). No nobles in all of Europe held such extensive land holdings.<sup>2</sup> This economic situation ushered in the



*Radziwill Estate, Palaneczka, Drawing by N.Orda (1876)*

golden age of the Polish Magnate, which for almost 200 years made them the wealthiest nobles in all of Europe with the possible of exception of the titled British aristocracy. This vast concentration of wealth also enabled this class to indulge in a lavish lifestyle that became legendary, a lifestyle so grand it surpassed that of most European monarchs, so extravagant it rivaled oriental potentates, and with so much unbridled power that it equaled the prerogatives of the “divine” rulers of ancient Rome. Its nature and scope became such a dominant characteristic of Poland during this period that throughout Europe, the Polish Magnate became a symbol of the exotic and indulgent lifestyle.

With the advent of the seventeenth century, elaborate palaces constructed by all of the various magnate families had sprung up throughout the Commonwealth, as master architects from Italy were called in to create sumptuous homes with each magnate attempting to out-build his neighbor. One such magnate was said to have constructed a palace that had a window for every day of the year, a room for every week, a hall for every month, and a tower for each quarter of the year. The palace of the Grand-Hetman Branicki at Bialystok was so sumptuous that it was called by contemporaries the “Polish Versailles,” and the palace Sochazew was famous throughout Europe for its expansive landscape gardens and arcades, while the country palace of the Czartoryskis at Pulawy and Pawanzka outshone the royal residences in Warsaw and Cracow. Each new palace was larger and grander than the next, and were scattered throughout the Commonwealth as magnates constructed multiple palaces on each of their far-flung estates as well as in the capital of Warsaw.

Even more remarkable was the famous theme park on the estate of Barch, Palatine of Belsk, at Wasklany. The

1. Norman Davies, *God's Playground, Vol. 1: A History of Poland*, New York: 2005, pp. 197-204.

2. Edward H. Lewinski-Corwin, *The Political History of Poland*, New York: 1917, p.226.



## LIFESTYLES OF THE MAGNATES *(continued from page 6)*

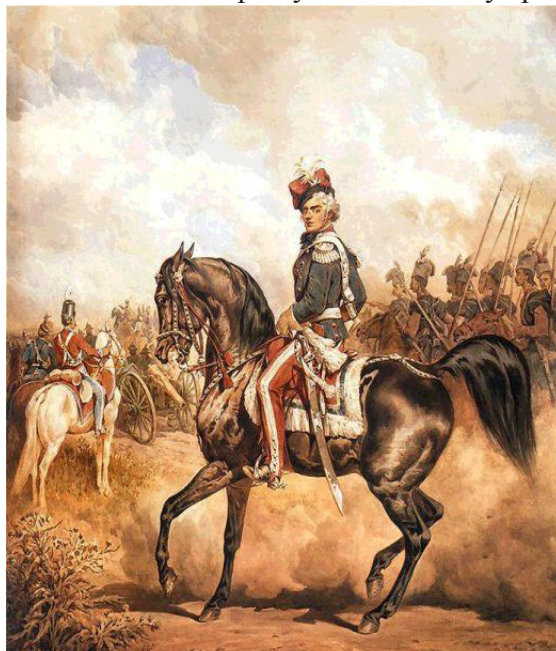
grounds surrounding the residence were filled with highly ornate pavilions in the classical style honoring various abstract concepts such as friendship, marriage, life and death. The grounds also contained a chapel with an altar dedicated to "Fame," within which Barch modestly (!) placed his own bust between that of Sobieski and Copernicus. The ultimate in magnate ostentation, however, could be seen on the estate of one of the royal treasurers who created colonies of apes on artificial islands in a lake.<sup>3</sup>

In addition to building grand palaces with elaborate gardens and grounds, the magnates also constructed massive stables to house their stock of pure-blood Polish Arabian horses which over the centuries had become the envy of all of Europe and were universally considered the finest horses in the world. Such stables frequently surpassed in size and grandeur the palaces. Several stories high and extending several city blocks, they were constructed in quarried stone with their exteriors embellished with massive windows, arches and colonnades, and with interiors graced with gold gilt plastering and painted murals fit for a royal palace. Horses stabled in such opulent settings lived in surroundings better than that of the average Pole of the period.

To match the grandeur of their palaces, magnates of this period maintained huge armies of courtiers who were bedecked in the most elaborate and expensive uniforms money could buy. One of the most colorful princely courts was that of Prince Karol Stanislaus Radziwill of Nieswicz. During the era of the Partitions he became known as *Panie Kochanki* or "The Darling Lord" because of his extravagant display of conspicuous consumption and the grand nature of his court. He could field six thousand gentlemen courtiers called the "Alban ban" because of their elaborate all-white uniforms.<sup>4</sup> Also popular among magnates of the period was the custom of holding Tartar or black prisoners as personal slaves. They were frequently used as domestics dressed in garish costumes, and were displayed at social and

public events as status symbols.<sup>5</sup>

Every opportunity was used by magnates to display their wealth. Simply traveling from one estate to another became a cross between a military expedition and parade in which the scope and ostentation of their courts were openly flaunted. They specifi-



*Polish Arabian Horse*

cally employed parade servants who were used during such trips, as well as during weddings, birthday celebrations, and funerals. It was a common practice, for example, for Prince Czartoryski, when traveling from Polawy to his estate in Volynia, to set out with four hundred horses and fourteen camels, and when going to Baryaw to be accompanied by a hundred wagons. During one magnate's wedding several elephants were included in the wedding parade on top of which elegantly attired retainers threw gold and silver coins to the spectators. In another wedding the horses of the retainers in the parades were shod with gold horseshoes attached to the hooves with half the needed nails so that, while the steeds pranced in the procession, their golden horseshoes would be thrown off and fly into the waiting spectators.

This lavish life-style awed Western Europe but was taken for granted by the magnates. When someone,

5. *Ibid.*, p. 227.

3. Robert N. Bain, *The Last King of Poland and His contemporaries*, London: 1909, p.25.

4. Davies, *Poland: God's Playground*, p. 226.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS, NOTES, AND CORRESPONDENCE

IRENA UDERSKA, ASSOCIATE EDITOR AND LONDON CORRESPONDENT

London – The 6th Polish Film Festival took place 10 April – 30 May 2008. Playing at various venues across the city, the events included an Andrzej Klimowski Poster Exhibition and films ranging between new offerings such as Jerzy Stuhr's *Twists of Fate* and various retrospectives such as the tribute to Jerzy Kawalerowicz who died in December 2007. The Kawalerowicz programme consisted of his three greatest films: *Mother Joan of Angels*, *Night Train* and *Pharoah*.

There was also an interesting debate on the subject of "Censorship As A Creative Source." This involved a film on censorship entitled *Escape from the 'Liberty' Cinema* followed by a ten minute filmed talk by the great Andrzej Wajda (who was unable to attend owing to ill health). Finally there was a debate between the Hungarian Istvan Szabo, the Czech Jiri Menzel, and Poland's Agnieszka Holland. Agnieszka Holland made the astute observation that there is also "the censorship of money" as well as "the censorship of democratic mediocrity".

However, the jewels in the Crown were the two films on Katyn. On 20 April 2008 there was a showing of Gebski's *KATYN – A Documentary* at the Imperial War Museum; this film was introduced by the renowned historian Professor Zbigniew Siemaszko. Also, the UK Premiere of Wajda's *KATYN* took place at the British Film Institute on 22 April 2008.

An interesting footnote is the fact that not only was Wajda's father, Jakub, murdered by the Soviets at Katyn, but that Wajda himself was at one time married to the Countess Beata Maria Tyszkiewicz (Herb Leliwa). Although they divorced, and have both since remarried, they had a daughter Karolina, born in 1967, who like her mother is an actress. 🌹

UK – The death of John Ciechanowski took place 23 April 2008. He was born on 31 October 1921, the eldest of the three sons of a Polish diplomat and landowner, all of whom were educated in England at Ampleforth. John Ciechanowski took part in the Allied attack on the Normandy beaches in 1944

and, after the war became a champion amateur rider and eventually trained horses for the Maktoums. He continued to ride till the age of 84, and until late 2006 rode every day. Ciechanowski was a vice-president of the Amateur Jockeys' Association of Great Britain; the Association's obituary says he "will always be remembered as the most modest of men, a cultured gentleman amateur rider who held strong views and was never happier than when in the saddle". He was married to Paola de Janze who predeceased him, and is survived by their only child, Alexander. 🌹

UK - Peter Phillips, son of Britain's Princess Anne, married Canadian Autumn Kelly at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle on 17 May 2008. The bride converted to Anglicanism to maintain her husband's place in royal succession. Mr. Phillips is eleventh in line to the crown. 🌹



*Peter Phillips and Autumn Kelly Phillips surrounded by his father, Mark Philips, Princess Anne, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Kelly, Prince Philip, Queen Elizabeth and the Bride's grandmothers.*



---

## LIFESTYLES OF THE MAGNATES *(continued from page 7)*

---

for example, remarked to Karol Radziwiłł that he lived better than the king he replied, "I live like a Radziwiłł; the King can do what he likes."<sup>6</sup>

The magnates' obsession with the grand lifestyle became so well known that Italian shops produced an especially fine grade of gold embroidered fabric which became known as *roba per Polonia*. The magnates filled their palaces with silk or tooled leather, tapestry hangings, paintings, marble and bronze statuary, silver and gold services, furniture of rare wood, and amassed treasure troves of jewels. Magnates, both men and women, bedecked themselves with gold and jeweled rings, brooches, chains, pendants, clasps, hat pins, and buttons. They bejeweled their swords, horse trappings, and clothes. A saddle made for Prince Adam Kazimierz Czartoryski was heavily inlaid in silver and gold filigree and set with carnelian. The clothes of magnates were frequently so heavily embroidered with gold thread that they were actually stiff, and jewels were not only set in all the buttons but were even woven into the fabric. Jan Sobieski, on a normal day, wore 200,000 thales' worth of jewels and Urzula Sieniawska, on her death in 1640, left 5,000 diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and sapphires; while Mary Anna Stadnicka, wife of the Palatine of Belz, left 8,760 pearls.<sup>7</sup>

It was, however, not sufficient to simply to possess such luxury items but rather it was essential that they be flaunted in public displays of extravagance so as to emphasize the status of the magnate. Such displays were typified by the reception given King Stanislaus II by Prince Radziwiłł in 1787 when that monarch visited the Radziwiłł's ancestral estate of Narwicz. Times were difficult throughout the Commonwealth and the king had asked that his stay be treated with the utmost simplicity, yet the Prince spent millions of zlotys in preparation for the visit, and the monarch's arrival was greeted with a display of barbaric splendor. The road on both sides was lined for a mile and half with Radziwiłł's splendidly equipped retainers waiting to greet the

royal cortege. As the king approached this honor guard, he was presented with a beautiful full-blooded Turkish charger, a gift from the Prince. He was saluted at each milestone by a thousand mounted gentry, dressed in their most expensive and colorful apparel, while cannons thundered forth salvos from the castle walls. Finally the king was greeted by Prince Radziwiłł himself who appeared riding a fiery Arabian decked out in cloth-of-silver with a bridle of pure gold studded with rubies.<sup>8</sup>

Every major event in the family life of the magnate was an excuse for a grand ceremony. When a child was born, artillery was fired, and when the lord returned from battle, monuments were dedicated amid elaborate pageantry. All the ostentatious rituals were used as a vehicle to flaunt their wealth, hence reinforcing their dominant position in society. One of the grandest and most colorful rituals indulged in by magnates, however, came with their death, for it was in the funeral ceremony that the magnate's family had the greatest opportunity to proclaim their greatness. A typical magnate funeral was that of hetman Josef Potocki in 1751 - the funeral lasted two weeks, during which 120 pieces of artillery fired continuously for six days. Hundreds of dignitaries and relatives, along with entire regiments of the magnate, paid their respects in the family church.<sup>9</sup>

Magnates also used grand balls, banquets, and during the winter the *kulig* or "sleigh parties," to display their wealth and generosity. The life of the average magnate was filled with continuous rounds of such social events which frequently lasted for days. They involved the consumption of gargantuan portions of food and drink, and massive expenditures of funds which sometimes required the sale of entire estates and villages. In particular, incredible amounts of alcoholic beverages were consumed; in fact, the ability to consume huge quantities of such beverages was a required status symbol among magnates. Grand Hetman Branicki once told King Stanislaus II, in all seriousness, that he must never

---

6. Adam Zamoyski, *The Polish Way: A Thousand-year History of the Poles and their Culture*, New York: 1988. p. 199.

7. *Ibid.*, p. 198.

---

8. W. F. Reddaway, *The Cambridge History of Poland from 1697-1935, vol. II*, New York: 1971, p. 30.

9. Zamoyski, *The Polish Way*. P. 204.

---

HYMN OF THE MORAVIAN NUNS OF BETHLEHEM  
AT THE CONSECRATION OF PULASKI'S BANNER

BY  
HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

When the dying flame of day  
Through the chancel shot its ray,  
Far the glimmering tapers shed  
Faint light on the cowed head;  
And the censer burning swung,  
Where, before the altar, hung  
The crimson banner, that with prayer  
Had been consecrated there.  
And the nuns' sweet hymn was heard the while,  
Sung low, in the dim, mysterious aisle.

Take thy banner! May it wave  
Proudly o'er the good and brave;  
When the battle's distant wail  
Breaks the sabbath of our vale.  
When the clarion's music thrills  
To the hearts of these lone hills,  
When the spear in conflict shakes,  
And the strong lance shivering breaks.

Take thy banner! and, beneath  
The battle-cloud's encircling wreath,  
Guard it, till our homes are free!

Guard it! God will prosper thee!  
In the dark and trying hour,  
In the breaking forth of power,  
In the rush of steeds and men,  
His right hand will shield thee then.

Take thy banner! But when night  
Closes round the ghastly fight,  
If the vanquished warrior bow,  
Spare him! By our holy vow,  
By our prayers and many tears,  
By the mercy that endears,  
Spare him! he our love hath shared!  
Spare him! as thou wouldst be spared!

Take thy banner! and if e'er  
Thou shouldst press the soldier's bier,  
And the muffled drum should beat  
To the tread of mournful feet,  
Then this crimson flag shall be  
Martial cloak and shroud for thee.

The warrior took that banner proud,  
And it was his martial cloak and shroud! 🌹



Because of space limitations Dues, Donations and Fees will be listed in the Fall/Winter 2008 issue.

## LIFESTYLES OF THE MAGNATES *(continued from page 9)*

expect to be popular unless he got drunk at least twice a week. Magnates, therefore, indulged in prodigious feats of drinking. Pan Komarczewski could empty a full bucket of champagne at a single draught without losing his head or his feet, and Pan Sosiejkowski, High Chamberlain of Woluła, while visiting the palace of Prince Lubomierski drank, along with his host, a whole barrel of Hungarian wine. During such drinking bouts no one was permitted to leave until he had consumed his proper quota which was determined on the basis of the capacity of the heaviest drinker present. Those with weak stomachs had to use such expedients as colored water or the undetected discharge of their cups into their jackboots. Even the ill and ailing were not exempt but were permitted to have a surrogate at their side to drink their toasts for them so as to prevent the merriment from flagging.<sup>10</sup>

One of the most passionate pastimes of the magnates was the hunting of large and dangerous game. They generally scorned falconry, coursing hounds, and the hunting of small game such as fox and rabbits which were popular among the gentry. The magnates, in contrast, gloried in organizing elaborate and lengthy hunting expeditions surrounded by their courts and retainers, with lavish tents and all the comforts of their palaces to pursue elk, bear and wild boar. Prince Karol Radziwiłł, for example, was invited by King Augustus III to course hounds and in reply the prince answered, "Why should I go and hunt rats and mice in Poland when I can always find wild boars in Lithuania?"<sup>11</sup> Bears were hunted with nets and wild wolves trapped in pits, but the ultimate sport was the hunting of bison by bands of riders armed with bows and firearms.<sup>12</sup>

The Polish magnates of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries represented the most powerful noble class in Europe, and their ostentatious and garish life style was unequalled in nature and scope. The great tragedy for Poland was that most members of this elite group were willing to do whatever was necessary to preserve and perpetuate their lavish way of life. Except for a small group of progressive-minded magnates, most of these grand lords were even willing to betray their own noble class and the rest of Poland by supporting foreign invaders if and when they saw their privileged position and prerogatives threatened by the Polish Crown and/or rival gentry. Many magnates opposed the progressive May 3<sup>rd</sup> Constitution, and even joined and supported the partitioning power so as to protect their wealth, power and life-style. This, along with their refusal to financially support an adequate national standing army, greatly contributed to the eventual destruction of the Commonwealth. Ultimately their attitude and conduct besmirched the honor and history of the entire Polish noble class which had previously guarded with great sacrifice and dedication the existence and glory of the Polish Commonwealth for almost a millennium.✠

10. Bain, *The Last King of Poland*, pp. 31-32.

11. Davis, *Polands: God's Playground*, pp. 249.

12. *Ibid.* p. 254.



*Polish Constitution  
of May 3rd*



## FRANZ HERZOG VON BAYERN, NEW KING OF ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown is considering repealing the 1701 Act of Settlement as a way of healing a historic injustice by ending the prohibition against Catholics taking the throne. The repeal of the Act would have the unforeseen consequence of making a 74-year-old German aristocrat the new King of England and Scotland. Franz Herzog von Bayern, the current Duke of Bavaria, would be the rightful heir to the British Crown under the Stuart line.

The bachelor, who lives alone in the vast Nymphenberg Palace in Munich, is the blood descendant of the seventeenth century King Charles I. "If it [the Act] goes, then the whole Catholic line is reinstated," said Prof Daniel Szechi, a lecturer in early modern history at the University of Manchester. "Franz becomes the rightful claimant to the throne. We would just exchange one German family for another one."



*Franz Herzog von Bayern and niece Elisabeth*

