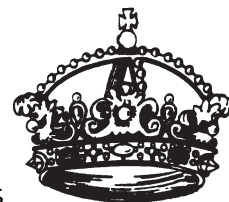




WHITE EAGLE

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SPRING/SUMMER 2009

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THE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF THE POLISH NOBILITY PART I: GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH

The political environment, within which the *szlachta* became active participants, was characterized by a *forma mixta* government, that was a complex combination of monarchy, aristocracy and democracy. All three of these elements or forms of government were joined in the *Sejm* or Diet with the king representing the monarchy, the Senate, the aristocracy, and the *Izba Poselska* or House of Commons or Chamber of Deputies, the democratic element of government.

The Senate was the bastion of the great aristocratic families or magnates of Poland. Indeed, membership in this august body was one of the main pre-requisites for recognition as a magnate of the realm. Membership was achieved through nomination by the king, or the holding of a seat by virtue of a ministerial post, bishopric or the position of wojewoda or kasztelan.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I first wish to thank all of those members who have sent in articles for publication in the *White Eagle*, especially Count Michael Subritzky-Kusza, David Tysowski, and of course Irena Uderska. Irena has been a devoted member of the Association and a constant contributor to the *White Eagle*, in her capacity as the Association's representative in Great Britain. A special thank you to all of you for your commitment and continued support.

Second, I want to ask all the members to consider the nature and format of the *White Eagle* and submit any suggestions to me as to how we might improve this publication.

Finally, I have been working for several years on an updated edition of an older publication of the Association entitled, *The Nobility of the Polish Commonwealth*. It had been printed many years ago. I had wanted for some time to reprint an expanded and updated second edition of this publication but events and activities kept intervening and interrupting my efforts. It is now, therefore, my prime objective this year to complete this project and have the new publication ready for printing by the beginning of 2010. Members will be updated as to the progress of this project in the Fall/Winter issue of the *White Eagle*. 🌹

Dr. Felix von Leski-Holewinski

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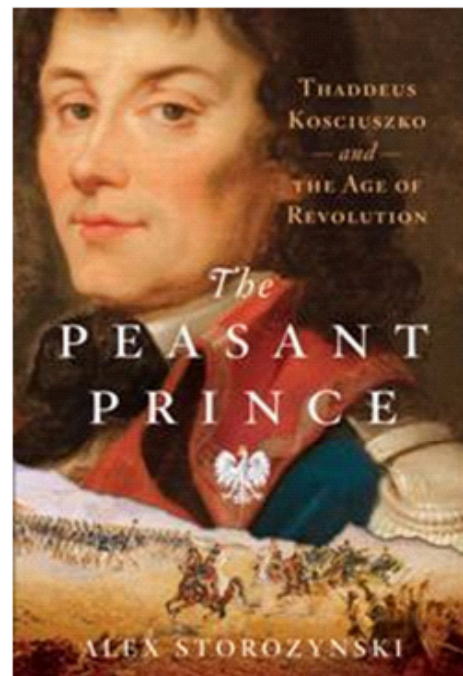
All material submitted for publication is subject to editing for content and available space.

Professor W. Julian Korab-Karpowicz, who received a Doctorate in Philosophy (D.Phil.) from University of Oxford and a Licentiate in Philosophy (Ph.L.) from The Catholic University



of America, was a publicly recognized figure early in his life. Brought up and reared in the city of Gdansk, as a student he actively participated in the Solidarity movement. Before starting an academic career, he held a few important positions in his native Poland. He was Deputy Mayor of Gdansk where he was in charge of the departments of education, health, social services, and sports. He founded two

private schools, and was Principal of the Sopot School of Polish and Director of the College for Foreign Affairs. He founded the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Business Management, and consulted for different companies on management and business problems. He was also a diplomat and served as Secretary and Vice-Consul at the Polish Embassy in Norway. He is now in South Korea at the The School of International Studies, Kyung Hee University, 1 Seocheon-dong, Giheung-gu, Yongin-si, Gyeonggi-do, 446-701 Republic of Korea. 🐾



The Pulitzer Award winning author, Alex Storozynski, whose latest publication on the hero of the two nations and one of George Washington's generals - Tadeusz Kosciuszko - was the guest of honor on Wednesday, May 13th, 2009 at the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C. 🐾

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 typewritten pages. If you have any pictures to enhance your article please enclose them 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.

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GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH *(continued from page 1)*

Among the ministerial positions that bestowed Senatorial status, the following were the most important:

1. The Grand Chancellor, or Keeper of the Great Seal, was the most important of all the ministerial positions and could be held by both ecclesiastical and temporal nobles. The Grand Chancellor was the main representative of the king at all public and state functions and was the spokesman for the king, transmitting the Royal Will and intention to the public. In this role he read the speeches of the Crown presented to the Sejm (the Senate and Chamber of Deputies meeting together) matters for consideration, negotiated with foreign ambassadors, and prepared and signed all royal decrees, mandates and correspondences. No royal decree became legal without his affixing the great Seal of the Commonwealth to the document.
2. The Under-Chancellor attended to the minor affairs delegated to his office by the Grand Chancellor and assumed the duties of the Grand Chancellor in his absences.
3. The Grand Marshal had charge of the king's safety, and was head of the police and judicial departments of the capital and its vicinity.
4. The State Treasurer had charge of the Royal Exchequer or Treasury and was responsible for the collection of revenues and expenditures approved by the Sejm. He was also in charge of the royal mint and the Royal Domains.
5. The Grand Hetman was the commander and chief of all the military forces of the Commonwealth. He was responsible for war assembling, and organizing all the diverse elements of the military forces of the Commonwealth once war had been declared. In addition, he was responsible for conducting and leading the military campaigns during such wars. He was assisted by regional and provincial Hetmans, who functioned as generals in all campaigns.

The two other posts with Senatorial rank, the Wojewoda and Castellan, were crown officers who discharged their duties outside of the capital. The Wojewodas were provincial governors who had limited duties and responsibilities. They led the militia of the province in case of war, looked after the weights and measures in towns, prescribed the prices of produce, and had jurisdiction over the Jews. Castellans, on the other hand, were originally Royal Governors of castles; however, in time their position became symbolic. They became, for example, the honorary leaders of the nobility of the districts, and in case of war, they organized the citizens of a district.

The Senate functioned as an advisory council to the king with members serving for life. Its members also served on the various parliamentary commissions which supervised and helped administer domestic and foreign affairs. The power and influence of the Senate varied from period to period, and while the gentry in the Chamber of Deputies were able to gradually restrict their constitutional power, their influence on the king and government policy varied with the strength of the personalities of those who comprised its membership.

In 1569, the Senate consisted of 140 members, but during the reign of Wladyslaw IV and John Kazimir, its number increased to 150 but dropped again to 146 after the loss of Livonia.

The Commons or the Chamber of Deputies was the lower house of the Sejm, and became the dominant governmental body since it eventually acquired the decisive voice in formulating and passing all new laws and decrees. The members of this Chamber were elected by local assemblies of nobles of the respective provinces.

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DUES, DONATIONS & FEES - 2009

Rt. Rev. John Abucewicz	\$150	Jerzy Karaszkiewicz	\$ 25
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS, NOTES, AND CORRESPONDENCE

IRENA UDESKA, ASSOCIATE EDITOR AND LONDON CORRESPONDENT

Belgium - Archduchess Marie-Christine of Austria married Count Rodolphe of Limburg Stirum on December 6, 2008 in Mechelen, Belgium. The couple were wed in a civil ceremony prior to a religious ceremony at St. Rumbolds Cathedral. Marie-Christine is the great-granddaughter of Emperor Karl and Empress Zita. Her new husband, Count Rodolphe, is the son of Count Christian and Countess Colienne d'Oultremont.

The von Limburg Stirum family is prominent all over Europe and have made many royal and distinguished marriages. Most interesting of all is the fact that Count Franz von Limburg Stirum is regarded as the Heir-General of the medieval Kings of Scandinavia whose genealogical representative he is.

He is regarded as the Heir-General of the deposed King Valdemar I of Sweden and his wife Sofia of Denmark. Consequently he is the Heir-General of

the royal Saint Eric dynasty of Sweden and of Sofia's father, the murdered King Eric IV of Denmark, and as such, also heir of the: Viking Earls of Lade in Norway; of the Earls of More in the Gothenland and Sweden; of Dux Birger Jarl the Regent who conquered south western Finland up to Tavastia; of Ragnhild Magnusdottir of Norway whose issue is the only known yet surviving undisputed descent from the Hardrada Kings of Norway; of Regent Harald Kesja of Denmark; and of Katrina Ingesdotter of Sweden who was the youngest daughter of King Inge I of Sweden. Therefore some have regarded Count Franz as the rightful heir of the Kingdoms of Denmark and Sweden.

Count Franz was educated in Sweden. He has an agricultural degree and now farms his family manor, Koski, in Western Nylandia in Finland.

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GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH *(continued from page 4)*

These land assemblies were also the legislative bodies of the various local governments, usually provinces or administrative units presided over by the Wojewoda. When this Chamber of Deputies became first differentiated from the King's Council in 1493, the number of Deputies was relatively small with each province sending only two Deputies to the Diet. The restrictive membership stayed relatively constant in number into the sixteenth century so that by the middle of the period there were still no more than 40 Deputies. During the reign of Kings Zygmunt I and II, however, the number of Deputies increased, as local assemblies sent six delegates to the Diet. In 1569, there were 95 Deputies, and by the next century the number had increased to 172.

Members of the Chamber of Deputies, mostly country gentry, were not free agents. They were representatives of their particular region, and were given specific instructions from their respective electoral assemblies on how to respond to the king's legislative proposals.

While the Sejm or Diet consisted of both the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, both bodies met and voted separately when the Sejm was in session, and, for any measure to become law, both bodies and the king had to approve. In addition, decisions by the various bodies had to be made by unanimous consent; however, this was initially not a problem because, in practice, a substantial majority simply ignored the minority by proceeding with a measure as if there was no opposition. It was not until the mid-seventeenth century that this process broke down under the impact of a scrupulous application of the principle of unanimous consent, that came to be known as the *liberum veto*. This was the practice in which any member of the Sejm could defeat a measure by simply shouting their opposition.

The first Sejms met at Piotrkow but later convened in Warsaw. Only the king could summon a Sejm and they did so as the need arose; hence, they sometimes met twice a year, while, at other times, once in several years. Eventually the Sejm was summoned on a regular basis every second year. The length of its sessions also varied. In the fifteenth century the sessions lasted a few days, while, in the sixteenth century, deliberation lasted several months. However, eventually the lengths of the sessions were standardized at six weeks. In addition, special extraordinary sessions could be called to handle emergencies or critical matters between the regular sessions; they could last no more than two weeks.

Another important and unique feature of Poland's early political process was confederacies. These were extraordinary assemblies called by nobility or magnates, the Sejm or king with the purpose of achieving certain specific ends which could not otherwise be obtained through conventional political means. They replaced the regular constitutional machinery when such institutions and processes broke down and ceased to function. They first came into being during the interregnum following the death of King Ludwig in 1382, and were constituted periodically at critical points throughout Poland's history.

The legal bases for such confederacies lay in the concept of the ultimate sovereignty of the nobility. That was why a general confederacy, comprising the representation of the whole nobility, was considered superior to all other political institutions including that of the king. Hence, on a number of occasions such confederacies attempted to subject the king to their will. The power and legitimacy of the confederacy depended on its political and/or military strength; hence, a confederacy that failed because of its legitimacy was viewed as rebellious.

Confederacies were originally intended to facilitate the smooth operation of government by providing continuity during periods of interregnum and surmounting government ineptitude. However, they soon became, a tool of various factions within the nobility during their internecine conflicts, and ultimately became divisive.

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GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH *(continued from page 6)*

Rather than facilitating efficient government, the confederacies contributed to the breakdown of government. Instead of protecting the common good they promoted the interests of the most powerful and privileged segments of the nobility and instead of unifying the Commonwealth the confederacies helped tear it apart.

One additional position, which eventually became important during periods of *interregnum* was that of the *Interregnum* Ecclesiastical Regent or *Interrex*. This position came into existence during the *interregnum* between the death of Zygmunt II and election of Henry Valois (1572-1573). During this period the Sejm elected Archbishop Uchanski, the Primate of Poland, as the Chief Executive of the nation. This established the precedent that the primate was to serve as the Head of State until the election of a new king.

The election of the Polish monarch also became a distinctive and very critical element of the unwritten constitution and of the entire political process of the Commonwealth. The first election of a Polish monarch took place in 1573, after the death of Zygmunt Augustus, the last Jagiellonian king. The practice in principle, however, was not new or foreign to the political traditions of the kingdom. Its antecedents can be found in the turbulent period at the end of the thirteenth century during which the various Piast princes of the divided Polish duchies attempted to achieve some type of unity. Poland, between 1138 to 1288, was divided into five duchies, each ruled by a sovereign Piast prince. After the bloody Tartar invasion and the threat of German encroachment from the west, the Piast princes decided to set aside the hereditary principle and invoke an election process whereby they would elect one of their number to the throne of the Duchy of Krakow who would be recognized as the overlord of all the other duchies. Hence, in 1288, Henryk Probus of Silesia was so elected, as was Przemysl II of Gniezno in 1290, and later Wladyslaw the Short, who was eventually crowned king. Hence, as early as the thirteenth century the election of a senior prince and eventually king was established as a way to achieve national unity. Therefore, when Jan Zamoyski advocated the election of a monarch by all the szlachta in 1573, he was simply turning to tradition. Zamoyski's reform proposal, however, not only stated that all szlachta had the right to vote for the new king, but also stipulated that every Polish nobleman, as well as members of ruling foreign royal families, was an eligible candidate for the throne, thus, making every noble a potential king.

The Convocation Sejm approved Zamoyski's proposal and set the date of the election, the rules under which the election process was to be held, registered the names of all the proposed candidates, and stipulated the terms under which the king-elect was to be invited to take the throne. The actual selection of the new monarch was done by the Election Sejm.

The Election Sejm assembled on a large open field at Wola, just outside of Warsaw. In the center of the Election Field a large rectangular fenced enclosure was erected. Within this enclosure and all along the inside of the fence were constructed stalls within the members of the Senate were seated. At the far end of the



Szlachta of Gdansk
(courtesy of Wikipedia Commons)

POLISH-CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS

BY

DAVID PATRYK JOZEF SAS TYSOWSKI

The Polish-Canadian organizations and communities across Canada are active and supportive of the culture, art, history, tradition, music, and theatre of Poland. In Ottawa, Ontario, we have the luxury of the full support of the Polish Embassy while the major urban cities have Polish Consulates to provide support for their activities. There are other events and activities that are not sponsored by the Government of Poland celebrating Polish heritage. The list of events and activities would be too long to publish each and every occurrence. I will provide an overview of selective Embassy of Poland, and other sponsored events, to give a flavor of what has been made available to those interested in attending.



Nicola Alexis Tysowski, David Tysowski and His Excellency Polish Ambassador Pawel Dobrowski, at the presentation of an antique print of Warsaw to the Embassy of Poland.

Leon Benoit, Member of the Parliament and Chair, the Executive of the NATO Parliamentary Association, and the Ambassador's and Heads of Missions including Poland, held a reception March 5th (Thursday), 2009, at Parliament Hill, West Block, Ottawa, Ontario. The reception was held to celebrate the 10th anniversaries of NATO membership of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. It was a time of reflection with regard to the Central European opposition movements such as Solidarity (a free-trade union), and its struggle against the Polish communist government. Also, with Polish troops fighting in Afghanistan alongside the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), it was a time to show that Poland has worked to establish itself as being contributors to global security.

In celebration of the 218th anniversary of the May 3rd, 1791, Constitution, both the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland (H. E. Piotr Ogrodzinski) and the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania (H.E. Ginte Damusis) co-hosted a reception May 7, 2009. The reception was held in the Grand Hall of the Canadian Museum

of Civilization, and the special guest featured was Mrs. Maria Kaczynska, First Lady of Poland. The Constitution of 1791 has become recognized as Europe's first and the world's second modern national constitutions. With the adoption of the Constitution, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth signed and sealed its eventual fate as the three neighbors - Prussia, Russia, and Austrian-Hungarian Empires. Things, of course, were further complicated for the Commonwealth with activities of the Targowica Confederation in alliance with Catherine the Great of Russia.

The three-hour play *Krum*, by Hanokh Levin, played at the National Arts Centre Theatre, Ottawa, Ontario, February 18 to 21, 2009. This particular production was directed by Krzysztof Warlikowski, and involved the TR Warszawa and Stary Teatr. The play ran for three hours without having an intermission break, and became somewhat of a test of wills for certain patrons to endure, not only because of the length of the play but also because of the theme of the play.

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POLISH-CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS *(continued from page 8)*

An interesting obituary was published in the *Globe and Mail*, Toronto, Ontario, December 27, 2008, detailing the life and death of Polish Canadian Brigadier-General Michal Mieczyslaw Wojciech Gutowski, who was awarded a military funeral at Warsaw's Cathedral of the Army on September 16, 2006. The Brigadier-General was born September 13, 1910, at Maciszewice, Poland. When war began on September 1, 1939, between Poland and Germany, he commanded Number One Squadron of the Seventeenth Uhlans. After the fall of Poland, he joined the Polish Underground and was saved from being shot, after being captured by the Germans, when a German officer recognized him as a former member of the 1936 Polish equestrian team. He graduated from the Polish Cavalry Military College in 1930, served with the Seventeenth Wielkopolski Cavalry Squadron, competed in the 1936 Olympics, and ended the Second World War as a Lieutenant-Colonel, commanding the Second Polish Armoured Regiment. Canadian Major-General Churchill Mann invited him to Canada to train the Canadian Army equestrian team in 1948, and he also trained the Canadian Olympic team from 1948–1955. His medals awarded, along with the normal service and campaign medals of Poland and Britain, included Poland's Cross of Valour (five times), Frances Croix de Guerre with palm and the Legion of Honour, and the United States Legion of Merit. At the age of 92 (after helping in forming the Polish Cavalry Parade Squadron when he returned to Poland from Canada in 2000) he lead a cavalry charge with drawn sword in hand.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, H.E. Piotr Ogrodzinski and Mrs. Agata Kawalerowicz-Ogrodzinska, hosted an Independence Day concert (1918-2008) on November 17, 2008. The concert was held at the Theatre, Canadian Museum of Civilization, Gatineau, Quebec. The featured music was Fryderyk Chopin's piano concerto No.2, in F minor, Op. 21, which was performed by Jan Lisiecki, accompanied by the Julian Armour String Quintet. As Marshal Jozef Pilsudski is quoted as stating in Warsaw, 16th November 1918, "The Polish State has arisen by the will of the whole nation and is based on democratic foundations. The Polish Government will replace the rule of violence, which for one hundred and forty years has weighed heavily on Poland's destiny, with a political system founded upon order and justice. On the strength of the Polish Army, under my command, I hope that from now on, no foreign army will enter Poland unless we have expressed our formal consent in this matter." Time and the Second World War saw two foreign armies enter and seize control of Warsaw and the Polish State.



His Excellency Ambassador and Plenipotentiary Bogdan Gzelonski (center) and guests at the Polish Embassy including David and Nicola Alexis Tysowski.

The embassy of the Republic of Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany presented a premiere screening of *Strike*, a film by Volker Schlöndorff. The film chronicles the Lenin Shipyards, Gdansk, Poland, which also led to the phenomenon of *perestroika* and ultimately to the fall of the Berlin Wall and numerous eastern and central European communist governments.

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THE 8TH OF MAY FEAST DAY OF SAINT STANISLAS

BY COUNT MICHAEL SUBRITZKY-KUZA

Saint Stanislas, a Polish nobleman, was the son of Wielislaw, of the clan Turzyna. Wielislaw was the possessor of Szczepanów and Raba near the old Polish capital of Kraków. Wielislaw's wife Bogna, was of the clan Nowina (of the same Polish noble clan as the current Grand Master of the Order of Saint Stanislas). St.

Stanislas was born in 1035 and from his very early years devoted himself to the service of God and to the poor. In December 1071, Stanislas was elected 9th Bishop of Kraków.



Detail from choir window - St. Stanislas Church - Cleveland, OH.

©2000 Bogdan Pieniak

At that time in history, Poland was ruled by King Boleslaw II, nicknamed "The Fierce" (1058-1079). It was the time of the wars of investiture between the German King and Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV (1056-1105); and Pope Gregory VII (1073-1083). Boleslaw sided with the Pope while his brother-in-law, Wratislav of Bohemia, sided with the Emperor. Boleslaw was crowned in 1075 by Saint Bogumil, Archbishop of Gniezno, another great ecclesiastic of the XIth century Poland. Boleslaw was a successful ruler, as far as making war was concerned. He twice took Kiev, restoring his brother-in-law, Iziaslav I, to the Russian throne, but as Gall pointed out, he was sometimes overly generous in rewards, careless in battle, fierce, proud and extremely cruel.

Sometime in 1078, the King and Bishop Stanislas came into conflict. History does not know the exact reasons, but what is known is that there was a discontent amongst

the population because of the constant wars and expeditions that took most of the men away from their homes for many years. This situation was no doubt exploited by the King's younger brother, Wladyslaw Herman, who ruled Masovia as his principality. It is known that Wladyslaw was a friend of the Bishop, whose sympathy was with him rather than with the King. Early in April of 1079, the conflict between the King and the Bishop neared its tragic end. The Bishop was seized by the King's friends of the Jastrzêbiec clan and brought over to him for his judgement, which took place on the hill of Skalka above the church of Saint Michael. The King sentenced Stanislas to the punishment known then as *truncatio membrorum*. The sentence was carried out by the King's friends of the Jastrzebiêc clan with such violence that it resulted in the death of the Bishop on 11 April 1079.

Within two months revolt spread, headed by the King's younger brother Wladyslaw Herman from Masovia and supported by the invasion of the Czechs under King Wratislav. Most of the Polish people, horrified by the deed of the King, abandoned him. By July 1079, Boleslaw "The Fierce" had lost his throne. He was a refugee in Hungary but still a proud and unbroken man. When the Hungarian King Saint Ladislas came in person to greet him on the frontier, Boleslaw would not dismount his horse, treating him as a vassal. Within two years, Boleslaw died at the age of 41, in the lonely monastery of Osyak, now in Slovenia. His grave there is marked only by a stone slab depicting his last faithful companion, his horse.

Wladyslaw Herman took Kraków in July 1089, and one of his first acts was the political rehabilitation of his

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FEAST DAY OF SAINT STANISLAS

(continued from page 10)

friend, Bishop Stanislas. Already miracles were reported at his grave in the Church of Saint Michael on Skalka. The remains of the martyred Bishop were taken from Saint Michael's church on Skalka, placed in a silver coffin and taken to the Royal Castle in Kraków, the Wawel Castle. This ceremony took place on 27 September 1089.

During the next one hundred and fifty years, many miracles occurred around his tomb, especially the healing of the sick and the crippled. Hundreds of pilgrims came from not only Poland but, from all over Europe to touch his tomb and to pray to be cured. On 8 May 1253, Pope Innocent IV proclaimed Bishop Stanislas a saint and a second patron of Poland after Saint Wojciech, who was martyred in 997. The 8th of May was established as the feast day of Saint Stanislas. 🌹

POLISH-CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS

(continued from page 10)

The Embassy of Poland and the British Council sponsored an event to celebrate the opening of an exhibition "Joseph Conrad – Twixt Land and Sea" from the Adam Mickiewicz Museum of Literature, Warsaw, Poland. The exhibition was organized to commemorate the writer on the 150th anniversary of his birth (born 3rd December, 1857, Jozef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski, died 3rd August, 1924, a naturalized British subject as of 1886). The event included a public lecture entitled: 'Joseph Conrad: Polish, European, Worldwide', given by Professor Wiesław Krajka, English department of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin, Poland, on November 5, 2007, Marisset Library, University of Ottawa. This event was also part of the UNESCO 2007 year of Joseph Conrad celebrations. 🌹

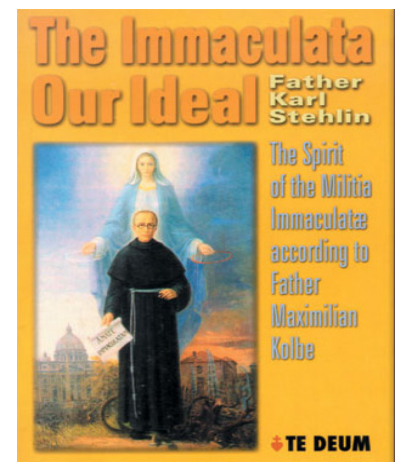
INTERNATIONAL NEWS, NOTES, AND CORRESPONDENCE *(continued from page 5)*

UK - An English version of *The Immaculata Our Ideal: The Spirit of the Militia Immaculatae According to Father Maximilian Kolbe* by Father Karl Stehlin, published by Te Deum Press Warsaw 2005, is now available in bookstores across the UK. The book contains some excellent photographs of the beginnings in 1927 of Niepokalanów, the City of the Immaculata, which the saint built on land donated to him for this purpose by Prince Jan Drucki-Lubecki (*Herb. Druck*).

The Prince returned to Niepokalanów from exile in America on the June 15, 1990, and lived at the monastery until his death on August 12, 1990. He is buried in the monastery cemetery alongside Franciszek Gajowniczek (1901-1995), the man for whom Maximilian Kolbe laid down his life.

The Drucki-Lubecki family are at Rurik house and are descended from Saint Vladimir. Prince Jan Marian Maria Drucki-Lubecki (1898-1990) was the son of Prince Władysław and his wife Maria (nee Countess Zamoyska z Zamoscia). (*Herb. Jelita*). His great-grandfather was the famous Prince Franciszek Ksawery Drucki-Lubecki (1778-846) who was renowned as an economist and a financier.

Another member of the family was Prince Konstantine Alois, who has passed into history as the first known settler in New South Wales. He was married to Laura Duffus, who was from an old Scottish family. A full account of Prince Konstantine's adventures can be found in the excellent book, *Poles in Australia and Oceania* by Lech Paszkowski, published in 1987 by the Australian National University Press. 🌹



GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH *(continued from page 7)*

enclosure, a large wooden pavilion was built which sat the clerks and high dignitaries, including the Marshal of the Sejm, who was responsible for supervising the election. In the center of the enclosure, on a small raised platform, was an empty throne symbolizing the soon to-be-elected king.

All the way around the outside of the enclosure the electors were drawn up in units according to their palatine. Each palatine would send ten deputies into the enclosure and these representatives would deliver campaign addresses on behalf of their favorite candidate. Each ballot contained the name of one of the candidates. Each elector selected the ballot bearing the name of his chosen candidate. He then signed and sealed the ballot. All the ballots were collected, returned to the enclosure, counted and the results proclaimed by the interrex. The first election in 1573 lasted four days but subsequent elections lasted no more than two days.

These Election Sejms were very popular events among the szlachta, and participation remained high until the eighteenth century. Electors were plied with food, drink, and money by supporters of the various candidates in specially erected “hospitality tents.” In addition, this event gave the szlachta of all ranks the opportunity to mingle on an equal footing with the great and powerful who needed their support for their favorite candidate.

As these Election Sejms were convened, it became increasingly evident that the szlachta were reluctant to elect one of their own to the position of king, especially if such candidates came from one of the great Magnate families. Such Magnate candidates, if elected, would bring with them the power, wealth, and political influence of their families and those families and clans allied with them. As a consequence, the assumption of the throne would give them much enhanced power over their fellow nobles and would be, therefore, more difficult to control. Therefore, Election Sejms tended to favor foreign royal candidates who lacked or had a weaker political and economic support base; hence, they would be easier to control by the szlachta. This resulted in foreign rulers interfering in, and corrupting, the election process.

ENDNOTES

Andrzej Kaminski, “The Szlachta of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Their Government,” Ivo Banoc and Paul Bushkovitch, ed., *The Nobility in Russia and Eastern Europe*, New Haven; Yale, Concilium on International and Area Studies, 1983, pp. 18,19.

Edward H. Lewiski-Corwin, *The Political History of Poland*, New York, pp. 164, 196 – 202.

