



PNAF, CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT GIFTED CHAIN COLLARS OF OFFICE

(C) Wieslaw George, Marquis de Helon GCEG, GCDA, RML, RCST-BM, PNA, JP (Qual.): Australia, 2014



In May of 2012 two customized and rather heavy gold-plated Chains of Office (see picture above) were proudly donated to the PNAF for the use of our Chairman of the Board, Dr. Roger, Prince C. Polubinski, and our then - now Emeritus - President Dr. Felix W. v.L. Holewinski, President of the Foundation.

These Chains of Office are a first for the PNAF, so our Chairman of the Board asked me to pen a few words explaining why I had made such a gift to the Foundation; I was also asked – for the sake of posterity - to elucidate the symbolism of the Badges devised.

Quoting my own words from a previously published article (Szlachta – the Phoenix Rising. White Eagle; Spring/Summer 2012, p. 7) my reasoning is simple: “WE, as nobles, need to reawaken that spirit of fortitude and resourcefulness from within, that of what once was, and emerge from our cocoons in the full color, splendor and grandeur that our ancestors were once accustomed to.”

I previously posed the questions – “How does one outwardly show who or what one is to the world? How does one express centuries of history, heritage, prestige and inherent personal eminence?”

(Continued on Page 3)

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The White Eagle is the official semi-annual
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ON HERALDRY AND HERALDIC SNOBBERY

Translation by Leonard J. Suligowski from Symon Konarski's work "O Heraldyce I Heraldycznym Snobizmie"

This translation project was accomplished by Leonard Suligowski. Leonard was a passionate Heraldic researcher, artist, long-time Board Member of the PNAF and Director of the PNAF College of Heraldry. This piece was first published by the Polish Genealogical Society of America. Leonard passed away in his hometown New York City. It is with wonderful memories of constant communication and friendship that we reproduce this rewarding and difficult translation of in a field that was of great interest to him and us.

Intelligent individuals have realized for some time now that every human weakness is open to scrutiny. Scholars have always known that man's foibles can be cultivated, cared for and nurtured in a positive way, such as one would tend a neglected garden that is overgrown with weeds. Human weaknesses show themselves in many different ways. The laws prohibit many of man's exploitations of the general public often geared for personal gains. Most individuals would not take the risk of getting caught in a fraud; however, the egos of others, often rise higher



***"PNAF annual Board meeting held at
Villa Annelsie," MD, 1990's, left to right,
Prince Jan Polubinski, Bialystok and
Leonard J. Suligowski, NYC, PNAF Director of
the College of Heraldry (deceased)***

than reality. But the more difficult the undertaking, the larger the gain. Only the brave individuals became involved in the risky aspects of this business. Snobbism is another example of a human weakness. For example, a painter might call himself a "Master"

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PNAF, CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT GIFTED CHAIN COLLARS OF OFFICE

Continued from Page 1

More importantly, how can WE get behind our Members-at-Large to ensure that they have the appropriate attire to undertake their ambassadorial roles with pride and in the knowledge that they are seen as Szlachta!

“Now what better way to rekindle the prestige of the past than to unite as one identity behind an emblem that embodies the spirit of what was, the reality of what is, and the future of what might be; an emblem that can be worn at any event with pride by all Szlachta.”

“Let the world know it, let everyone see it – we’re back!”

As for the symbolism: the Polish Nobility Association Chain Collar of Office features a total of 17 die-struck gold Badges (seven of which are enamelled) merged between gold, flat oval-linked chains (for current Chairman of the Board and President of the PNAF); whilst for those of Emeritus status the Chain Collar of Office features 14 gold Badges and 3 of silver. There is one Justice Plaque at the front midpoint of the Chain Collar of Office from which is suspended an emblematic Badge indicative of Polish-Lithuanian Nobility, together with a total of 8 Badges featuring a stylized Polish Eagle – all bordered with a Laurel Wreath of Service, in succession, 6 Shields with a red field upon which is a white Greek Cross, atop of which is the designer’s and maker’s hallmark - a stylized ‘H’. At the rear midpoint is a Royal Crown bordered with a Laurel Wreath of Service.

At the center of the PNAF Chain Collar of Office (which weighs approximately 410 grams in total) is an emblematic badge which is representative of the Union of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, more officially known as the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, or *Królestwo Polskie i Wielkie Księstwo Litewskie*.

Upon the badge, indicative of Polish-Lithuanian Nobility, on a red field with a stylized rendition of a crowned Polish Piast Eagle, below which is the distinctive Lithuanian two-barred cross, the Cross of Vytis [Vyčio Kryžius], bordered with a green Laurel Wreath of Service; at the midpoint at the bottom there is the designer’s and maker’s Hallmark - a stylized ‘H’; atop of the Badge is a Royal Crown.

To the Chain Collar of Office is affixed a gold Retainer Chain.



***“Let the world
know it, let
everyone see it –
we’re back!”***



FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRMAN

Dr. Roger Chylinski-Polubinski



As time goes by I reflect on all the people I have known in my association with the Polish Nobility Association Foundation (PNAF). Some contributors like Leonard Suligowski (deceased) who was a dedicated member of the PNAF Board of Directors for many years and headed the PNAF College of Heraldry. Our retired President Dr. Felix v. L Holewinski (retired) now President Emeritus who represented the PNAF at numerous Ethnic, Social, Heraldic and Genealogical conferences in the US, Europe and the UK has decided to down size his charitable activities including travel. I know there have been many people over the years who have contributed to keeping a part of our Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth cultural heritage alive. There have been so many contributors who specialized in heraldic research, heraldic art, heraldic surname search, membership lists updates, dues recording and payment of expenses, CPA Income Tax Return Accountant(PF990), PNAF.US new web site start up and maintenance and, of course, the layout and design of the PNAF “White Eagle” Journal, \$1,800 annually.

It is our members that keep this Foundation a viable organization. What would we do without your financial support, Journal article submissions and contributions of material for our website? Your interest in your ancestry, in your coat of arms which today is as meaningful as we make it as ancestral models for us and our families. Years ago we began to develop a small growth fund to insure the future of the PNAF. Today that fund and checking account totals \$25,000, not much by some standards but financial support from members and friends and a lot of Heraldic Name Searches and budget management has allowed this insurance for coming years. In years past we operated with an end of

year budget surplus. Today many expenses that were personally paid for by volunteer members – including Dreamweaver, Gate, layout and design, and upgrading the Journal to color/gloss cover – had for the first time in 2013 caused a budget shortfall of one third. We then looked at operating expenses including printing the Journal and postage averaging \$8 each (postage Intl. \$3.23, Canada \$2.50, U.S. \$1.19). Monthly operating costs are just under \$400. A small amount representing 15 members at the minimum dues of \$25 per month. We then began reducing the mailings to members who had not sent in dues for 5 years in a row. We also reduced the International mailing list and began to develop Journal delivery system for the U.S. and Canada, and International e-mails. We are having a good member response and several Royals – HRH Alexander Prinz von Sachsen Herzog zu Sachsen, HRH Duke of Braganca, and HRH Duke Franz of Bavaria – have provided their email addresses; also the recent acknowledgement from Buckingham Palace. Ultimately we may need to reassess the financial viability of printing and posting of the hard copy Journal against a possible increase in the individual minimum rate of our annual dues. IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING AN ELECTRONIC COPY WHICH YOU CAN SHARE AS WELL AS BRING UP LINKS, PLEASE EMAIL YOUR EMAIL TO VILLAANNESLIE@VERIZON.NET

If you have not sent in your 2014 Annual Dues/Contributions, please take a few moments of your time to do so; we can then better plan our budget. If everyone on the member’s mailing list sent in his or her annual dues/contribution we would make budget. My goal is not to draw down those reserve funds that we have accrued over the years.

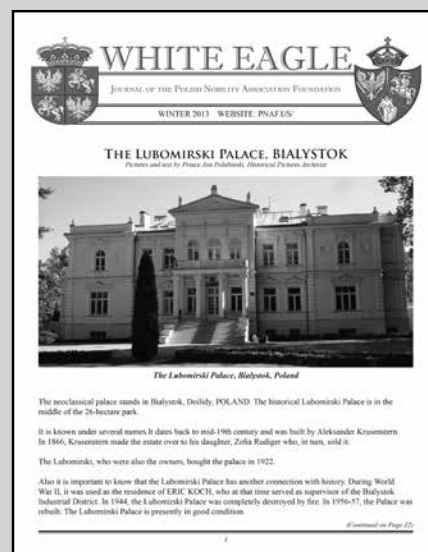
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DUES PAID IN 2014

Thank you one and all – members and friends – who have sent in 2014 Dues and Contributions. For those on the membership mailing list, if you missed the Winter 2014 Dues Letter and Return Envelope folded into the Journal, a second direct mailing will be sent to those we have not heard from as yet. *(As of May 18, 2014)*

Thank you for your continued support.



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A REPORTER'S TALE

by Thomas L. Hollowak

On November 17, 1902 the Count and Countess Jerzy Wandalin Mniszech arrived in Baltimore on the North German Lloyd steamer *Neckar* from Bremen, via New York. After settling into the



Count Jerzy Wandalin Mniszech

Altamont Hotel the Count spoke with reporters from two of Baltimore's three major newspapers. The following day both newspapers gave the interview prominent coverage with large banner headlines. *The Baltimore Morning Herald's* bold headline read: "Count Worked As Dishwasher – A Soldier Of Fortune" while the *Baltimore American's* proclaimed – "Austrian Count in Great Luck: Inherited Fortune by Relative's Death." It went on to explain that he was, "Returning to Scenes of Hardships and Poverty - ...Successively A Waiter in New York, A Coalminer in Pennsylvania and A Newspaper Reporter. His Inheritance \$50,000." In the course of the interview he regaled the reporters with the fantastic tale of his earlier adventures in America that gave rise to these sensational headlines. It was just the type of story that proved appealing to American newspaper readers at the time; essentially poor boy comes to America from noble family, washes dishes for a living after laboring in coal mine for several years, returns to New York, obtains a job translating cablegrams from Germany for a newspaper, then works as a reporter before inheriting a fortune back

in Europe. Today we would read such a tale with great skepticism, but at the turn of the nineteenth century this was the type of heroic tale that was accepted without question and greatly admired.

Even if the press had doubts the reporters knew they had a remarkable tale and didn't wish to offend the Count by questioning his veracity and lose a good story. Count Mniszech told the press he was born thirty-five years ago in Galicia, then part of Austrian Poland to a distinguished family that traced its lineage back 900 years and appeared in the *Almanac de Gotha*. Although he was raised in luxury the family fortune had disappeared in 1895. He did not elaborate on the cause of the family's financial reversal and, since there was no explanation, it can be surmised that the reporters either didn't ask or the Count refused to discuss the matter. Instead, Mniszech told them that faced with the prospects of poverty, he did what many of his fellow countrymen had done and immigrated to America. Arriving in New York, he soon discovered the streets were not paved in gold and sudden wealth was an illusion. Adjusting quickly to the reality of the situation, he found a job as a dishwasher in a hotel. This was followed by employment at other occupations before drifting to the mining regions of Pennsylvania where he worked in the coal mines.



Hotel Altamont

After several years of hard toil in the mines, he left and returned to New York where he obtained a position with the *New York Herald*, first as a translator of German cables, then as a reporter. While in Pennsylvania he became involved in working on the presidential campaign of William McKinley. Since he was a gifted linguist, he was assigned to the section of the campaign to “educate” the Poles, Swedes and Russians on McKinley’s sound money or gold standard policies. As a result of his electioneering efforts, the Count claimed to have obtained 30,000 votes for the Republican ticket. He hoped as a reward for this service, to receive a consulate position or being placed in charge of a proposed foreign department of the national Republican committee by President McKinley. As proof he showed the reporters letters from U.S. Senators Quay and Penrose, as well as other prominent Pennsylvania Republican politicians, highly commending him for his services to the campaign.

Although these positions did not materialize he next went to Cuba during the Spanish American war. He told the press that as a spectator at the battle he witnessed the capture of Santiago. In 1900 he learned that he had inherited one million francs and left America to return to Austrian Poland. In the interim he wrote a book on the Spanish American war and another on American politics and social life; both of these being published in Germany.

There was some disparity among the press as to why the Polish was Count had returned to America and where he was going to do while in the country. The *Baltimore American* reported he was going on to Washington, D.C. on personal business. The *Baltimore Morning Herald’s* report appeared to be more accurate stated the couple were going on to New York where the Count was to meet with an official of the American Tobacco Company. In a follow-up story, the next day, the *Baltimore Morning Herald* reported that that the couple were leaving that morning for New York, if their negotiations were successful, they planned to return to Baltimore that evening and sail for



Germany on November 20. While in Germany the Count would brief his clients before returning to the United States around the end of December.

Although there was no further coverage in the Baltimore newspapers, a subsequent story that appeared on January 11, 1903 in the Evansville, Indiana *Courier*, confirms that the couple did return at the end of December, but the newspaper's heading indicated the return visit had devastating results:

NOBLE HEIR TO MILLION FRANCS IN POVERTY

The syndicated article dated New York – January 10, revealed that the Count and his “dazzling” beautiful wife were penniless and starving in New York. The couple, had arrived two weeks before and were now so poor they were not able to pay their bills; the Countess told a reporter that she had gone without food for three days. Sadly their story ends here. They appear to have vanished from history without a trace.

During the interview with the Baltimore reporters the Count displayed his family crest, though one of the reporters mistakenly described it as the crown of Poland:



Mniszech of Mniszech (or Konczyc). Stanislaw-Jerzy (son of Jan-Karol by his wife Katarzyna Zamoyska, h. Jelita) obtained the hereditary title of Count in Austria on the 22nd of April 1783. The title became extinct upon his death without issue in 1806. Michal-Jerzy (brother of the above) (1748-1806) obtained, at the same time as his brother, the title of Count in Austria. His descendants obtained Russian confirmation of the title on the 3rd of November 1848. The title became extinct upon the death, without issue, of Andrzej-Jerzy-Filip-Stanislaw on 11 May 1905. Josef-Jan-Tadeusz (brother of the two previous individuals), (1742-1797) obtained the hereditary title of Count in Austria on 14 August 1783. The last member of this branch, Aleksander-Emmanuel-Casimir.

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ON HERALDRY AND HERALDIC SNOBBERY

Continued from Page 2

even though this may be greatly stretching the truth. The possibility exists even “if,” in the future, this same painter were to actually achieve a higher status and collect praise for his work and, in fact, become a “Master” of his craft. Calling himself a “Master Painter” is like putting the cart before the horse, and there will be many who would object to this form of self promotion.

This type of speculation does not risk much by flattery. It is more difficult to refer to a Lieutenant as “General.” However, referring to someone as “dear Prince” (when this someone does not possess the right to such title) is not only harmless, but also brings everyone involved much contentment and satisfaction. For instance, during a card game, when one refers to the other using a noble title, he or she is quite pleased that the present company occupies such a high position in the ranks of the society. The person who uses this new expression, has elevated the magnificence of his Polish friend in the foreign country “for the glory of Poland.” This is a glowing event. These forms of speculations, as far as title snobbism is concerned, are most primitive. It is not difficult to refer to someone as “Prince.” The difficulty lies in conducting most careful

research in order to prove that history mistakenly forgot about the existence of 10 sons of supposedly childless Swidrygielly.

The youngest of his sons gave the beginning the Swiderski Princely family. The history also omits the fact that the son, of also childless Wojsielki, the son of Mendog himself, was the forefather of the Princes’ family of Weryha Darowskich that however signifies something and by no means is it an easy task to undertake. Conducting successful research requires not only knowledge and utmost ability in the usage of the language, but also a certain degree of bravado and audacity. One may be accused of misrepresentation of facts and falsification of historical events. It has happened before. When such circumstances arise, the accused brings forth multitude of paperwork and articles, which so stipulate that it is more important to rely upon tradition, as opposed to worthless papers or diplomas. The tradition itself is the genuine treasure of history, tradition and only tradition. Such beliefs were held by those who justified title falsifications.

To be continued in the Winter 2015 issue.

CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

By Karol Antoni Usakowski

Lately, I have seen many young noblemen and noblewomen forget old customs and traditions which are important to our class identity. Here are some of the few I have seen fade away the most.

Signet Ring

This piece of jewelry with an engraved coat of arms is a basic asset of any member of the Szlachta. It is a reminder of one's honour, traditions, and responsibilities. It is a symbol of the legacy bestowed upon us by our forefathers. I remember when I received mine on my 18th birthday, it was then and there that I understood that, whatever my endeavours were, I could not perform at a mediocre level. Other than that, it is a great thing to pass down to the generations or a better item to have as a family than matching knitted sweaters.

Evening Dress for Gentlemen

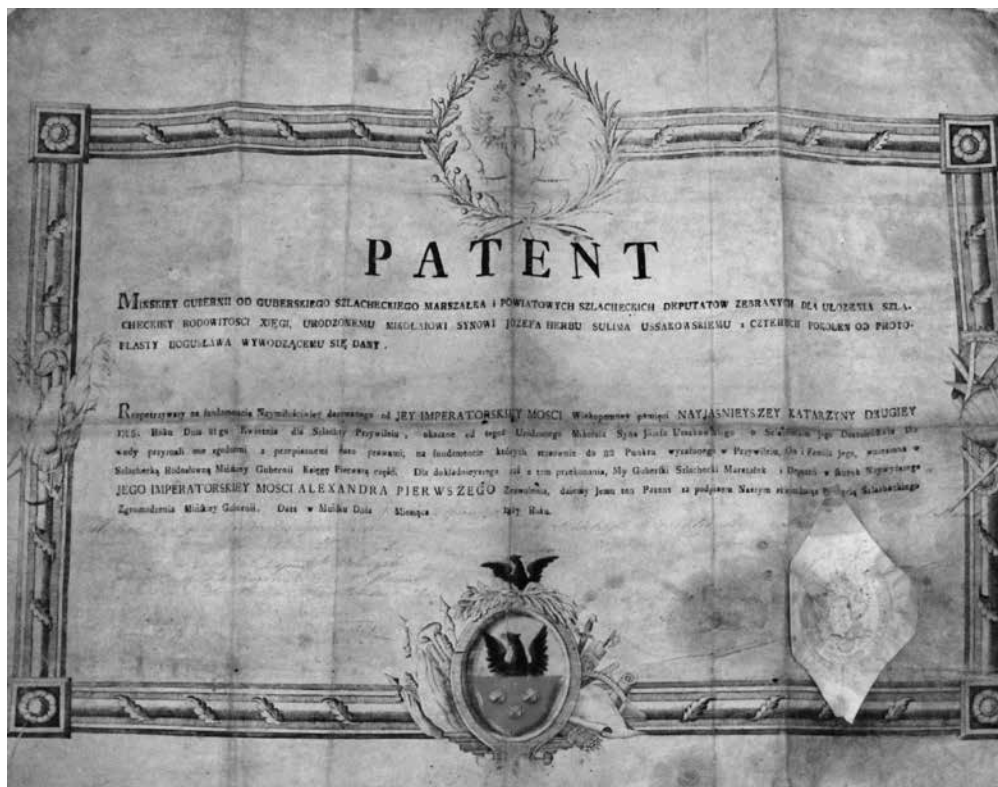
I know we might live in the New World but American sartorial laziness is no excuse to dump our traditional European white tie and tails for a tuxedo when attending a ball. If anything, it denotes the true gentlemen and sartorialists in the room. It complements the nobleman's presence and his impeccable manners.

Ballroom Dancing

I have seen too many young members of the nobility not know how to dance at a ball. Dancing was a focal point of noble life. In the days of court life, not knowing how to dance could spell social disaster. That is why I believe that, in keeping with our cultural traditions, we should all know or learn how to waltz and dance a Polonaise. By doing so, you also open the door to discovering interesting aspects of your Polish heritage that can be found in the history of the music, the dance, and the customs.

Necessities which are now sports

It once was primordial to know how to fight with your sword and ride a horse. These days, they are both Olympic sports and the Poles seem to fare badly. It is too bad that the once great horsemen of Europe cannot win a gold medal in the summer Olympics but, so be it. Despite it all, fencing and horse related sports are a great way of getting in touch with our long lost heritage and a great way to develop inner discipline and dedication. What once was primordial knowledge for a nobleman is now part of an entire panoply of interesting sports which allows one to take part in a myriad of interesting events.



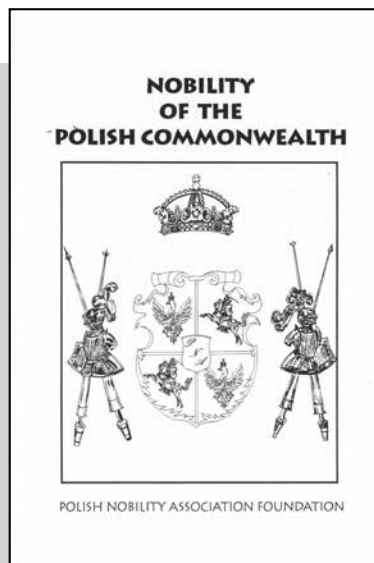
Hopefully, one of these four fading customs and traditions will be once again taken up by you or your families. It is just important to maintain our class identity through such practices as it is important for us to know Polish. Without it, our heritage fades away.

- We should all know or learn how to waltz and dance a Polonaise -

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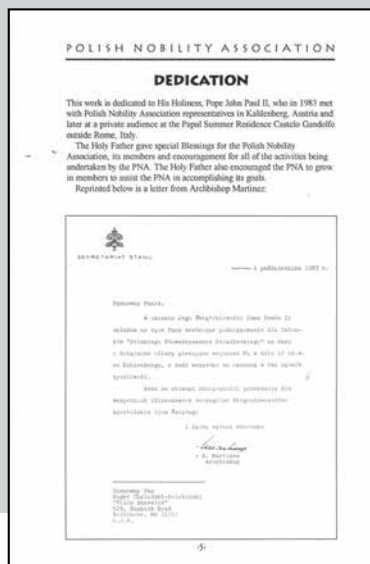


POLISH NOBILITY ASSOCIATION

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Within its handsome cover are topics concerning the origin of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth nobility. Beginning with the Piasts with several articles translated from such eminent authors as Niesiecki and Konarski. An in-depth explanation on the origin of Polish-Lithuanian coats of arms, titles and their validity. Also included are pages of maps and photographs to pique your interest. (48 pages, handsome gold gilt lettering)



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JABŁONNA PALACE

Text and photos from Wikipedia

During the Middle Ages, Jabłonna was the property of the Bishops of Płock who built a summer residence here in the 15th century. In 1773, the brother of the King Stanisław August - Michał Poniąkowski, then Bishop of Płock and later the primate of Poland, bought the property in Jabłonna with the intention of turning it into an elegant palace-and-park residential complex. In 1774, he commissioned the royal architect, Dominik Merlini, to design the new residence. The construction of a three-building complex was proposed: a one-storey palace, which was intended to be the residence of the owner, was to be situated in the middle and flanked on both sides by separate three-storey pavilions.

A scenic English-style park was developed in the 1770s and 1780s, based on the design of architect Szymon Bogumił Zug. The same architect also constructed a series of pavilions, of which three still remain today: the Grotto, the Orangerie and the Chinese Pavilion. Over the next 40 years, the buildings were extensively remodelled and added to coincide with a number of changes of ownership. In 1837, the palace was rebuilt according to the design of Henryk Marconi.

Jabłonna was owned by the Potocki family until 1945. In 1944, the palace was burned by the German army. Since 1953 Jabłonna has been owned by the Polish Academy of Sciences. Under its auspices the palace was transformed into the conference and recreational centre. In the course of this renovation, the central part of the palace was restored to look as it did at the end of the 18th century while its side parts, added in the first half of the 19th century, retained their original appearance. The representative halls and chambers of the palace were decorated with old furniture and paintings from the end of the 18th and the first half of the 19th centuries.



Jabłonna Palace is a palace, hotel and publicly accessible park-complex in Jabłonna, Poland

For more information go to the internet and search *Jabłonna Palace Wikipedia*.