



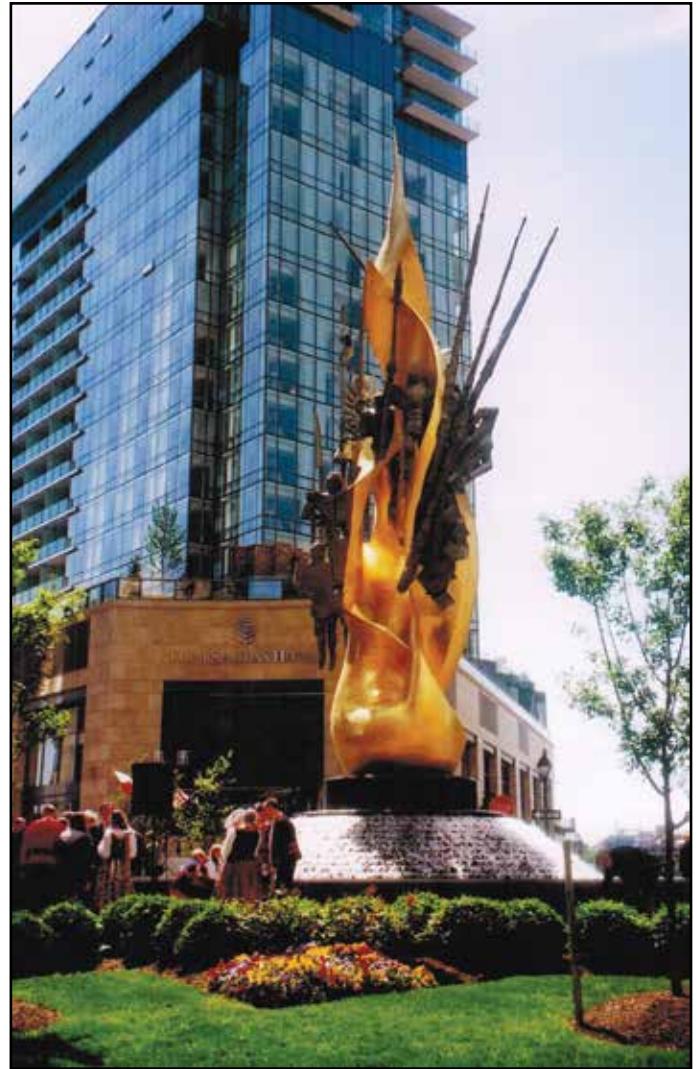
## TRIO OF KATYN REMEMBRANCES IN BALTIMORE

*By Richard Poremski, PNAF member*

*This article has also appeared in the Polish American Journal.*

**BALTIMORE, Md.** -- Three Katyn Events Solemnized. The National Katyn Memorial Foundation and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland joined to observe three major Katyn related anniversaries here on April 19th that were harmonically converging in this year of 2015. They are listed in the following chronological order: 1940 – The Katyn Massacre (75 years ago); 2000 – Baltimore’s First Katyn Remembrance (15 years ago); 2010 – Smolensk/ Katyn Airplane Catastrophe (5 years ago). In this landmark year they remain a most significant historical trio in our hearts and minds.

After the dedicated 10:30 a.m. mass at Holy Rosary Church, two hundred people attended the 1 p.m. ceremonies at the National Katyn Memorial site in Harbor East. The participants included national, state and local politicians, the Embassy of Poland, numerous national and local Polonia organizations, and many other interested people. Catholic (R.C. and P.N.C.C.) and Jewish clergy offered up their appropriate prayers and religious traditions. Groups participating in the ceremonies were the Polish Legion of American Veterans – Department of Maryland, New Jersey Polish Army Veterans Association of America (Polish acronym “SWAP” ) Post 36 – Passaic, and Post 81 – Trenton, costumed folk dance groups Krakowiaki (youth) and Ojczyzna (adult).



### *15th Annual Katyn Remembrance in Baltimore*

All were assembled to memorialize the 22,000 Polish Army officers, including many of Poland’s officialdom, leading citizens and intelligentsia, all murdered in the infamous 1940 Katyn Forest Massacre at the bloodied hands of the Soviet Union’s (aka Russian) militarized political police

*(Continued on Page 10)*

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**NEWS & NOTES – SUMMER 2015**

**Kings of Saxony Rulers of Poland/Lithuania**

[https://books.google.com/books?id=LFgB\\_14SdHAC  
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of%20Poland%2FLithuania&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=LFgB_14SdHAC&pg=PA245&lpg=PA245&dq=Kings+of+Saxony+Rulers+of+Poland/Lithuania&source=bl&ots=QkCOXAKpkB&sig=nBGylw-4OU1sTeK-B-sOn9asaZE&hl=en&sa=X&ei=ZviiVPuNLYyagwSJi4KoBQ&ved=0CE8Q6AEwCQ#v=onepage&q=Kings%20of%20Saxony%20Rulers%20of%20Poland%2FLithuania&f=false)

**Kings of Saxony, Rulers of Poland/Lithuania**

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ts=ad8b1Ms7iS&sig=mOalrkK0QgW  
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LYyagwSJi4KoBQ&ved=0CEoQ6AEwBw#v=onep  
age&q=Kings%20of%20Saxony%20Rulers%20  
of%20Poland%2FLithuania&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=FHrTxHmegRYC&pg=PA383&lpg=PA383&dq=Kings+of+Saxony+Rulers+of+Poland/Lithuania&source=bl&ots=ad8b1Ms7iS&sig=mOalrkK0QgWByWcgHTrhaY1mVRA&hl=en&sa=X&ei=ZviiVPuNLYyagwSJi4KoBQ&ved=0CEoQ6AEwBw#v=onepage&q=Kings%20of%20Saxony%20Rulers%20of%20Poland%2FLithuania&f=false)

**The Royal Family of Saxony**

[http://translate.google.com/  
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meissen.de/&prev=search](http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=de&u=http://www.markgraf-von-meissen.de/&prev=search)

**HRH Prince Alexander of Saxony**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING  
THE ROYAL HOUSE OF SAXONY AND ITS  
ELECTION AS KINGS OF POLAND/GRND  
DUKES OF LITHUANIA SEE LINKS BELOW  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander,\\_Margrave\\_of\\_  
Meissen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander,_Margrave_of_Meissen)

**Happy Birthday Alex Liston, CA, Associate Editor**

has recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Perhaps  
we can hope he will write an article on his youth in  
Poland.

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# POLISH HERALDRY AND NOBILITY: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

by Michael Subritzky- Kusza Ct, PNA, pp.

*\*Article first appeared in the Polish Genealogical Society of America and is reproduced with the permission of the author.*

Polish heraldry is unique in that it follows none of the laid down rules observed by the western herald. The bend, bar, pale, etc were almost unknown in Polish heraldry. However, Polish arms often bore ancient “ciphers” as charges which are said to trace their origins back into the mists of time, to the tribal clans of old.

Knighthood in Western Europe was a development of the feudal system and, as a general rule, followed the code of knightly conduct known as chivalry. This system of fealty came into being around the time of Charlemagne and was spread by Frankish conquest to Northern Italy, Spain and Germany, and later, in 1066, it was taken to England by the victorious Norman warlords of William the Conqueror. By the time feudal knighthood reached Poland in the late thirteenth and early fourteenth century, Poland had long since implemented her own system of both heraldry and nobility.

Poland possessed no “fountain of honour”. The nobility was an exclusive class in which all members were considered equal. Membership into this elite group was attained through either “valorous deeds on the field of honour” - or by adoption. In Poland only the nobility were permitted to bear a coat of arms, (Herb Polski).

The King of Poland had no power to award letters patent; this privilege could only be granted by the “Diet” (Parliament of Nobles). The social structure of the nobility fell into four groups:

1. Magnates (wealthy landowners, “Krolewieta”).
2. Village gentry of modest means. (Owned a village).
3. Small landowners. (Owned part of a village).
4. “Grey Nobility”. (Knights of little or no wealth).

In Polish nobility all knights (szlachta) were equal, all nobles were knights, and all knights were noble.

The King, having been elected for the term of his life, was considered to be “The first among equals.” The nobility ran the parliament, ruled the nation and formed the vanguard of the nation’s army. A coat of arms was exactly what the name implied - the symbol borne on a knight’s surcoat and shield in defense of the Fatherland.

A Polish knight may have had vast estates and carried his sword on a jewel encrusted belt, but he was only the equal of the poor knight who had his sword tied to his waist with a piece of rope and owned a few acres. At the “Diet,” each nobleman had an equal speaking voice throughout the proceedings. Little regard was paid to wealth and money, but bravery in battle was considered a paramount. The Poles held to the belief that noble birth was the guarantee of noble character and they were forbidden to marry outside of their class. Blood was the assurance that the brave would produce the brave, the valiant would produce the valiant and, therefore, the highest aristocratic values and traditions of the Commonwealth of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania would always be maintained.

Unlike western knights, the Polish knight swore no fealty to an overlord but regarded himself rather as the defender of the Commonwealth, its people, and Christendom. The Patron Saint of many Polish knights was the Madonna of Czestochowa, a sacred painting housed in a monastery on Jasna Gora (Bright Mountain). It was thought at one time to have been painted in Nazareth by Saint Luke and later taken from Jerusalem to Byzantium by Empress Helena.

Within the Polish nobility ennoblement was bestowed upon an individual for bravery on the field of battle. Once ennobled, the coat of arms bestowed upon the knight became hereditary to all descendants, both legitimate males and lineal females (that is unmarried daughters). Polish arms were seldom quartered or

*(Continued on Page 4)*

labelled with marks of cadency as all members of an extended family carried the exact same arms and were considered closer than brothers. The degree of actual kinship within this clan (rod) had little effect on this bond. A Polish nobleman carried a “linked” surname, that is, he carried a surname hyphenated with a coat of arms name. In my own case, SUBRITZKY-KUSZA, (Subritzky is my surname and Kusza is my coat of arms name). The coat of arms name was either the name of the actual charge on the shield, or the family’s battle cry. In heraldry, coats of arms such as these are referred to as “proclamatio” arms (the old Latin word for battle cry).

In regard to titles, the ancient Polish code of chivalry prevented the introduction of Orders or the bearing of titles which would have created an organization of precedence among the aristocracy. The majority of Polish titles, such as Prince, Duke, Marquis and Baron are foreign in origin, being either German, Russian, Maltese or Papal - the old nobility zealously guarded the principals of equality amongst peers. In olden times, actual nobility was reflected in a suffix tagged to the end of the surname: cki or ski, which equated to the Germanic von, the French de, and the English “of”, denoting ownership of that particular village, farm or homestead. In more recent times, members of the old nobility have adopted the usage of the title Chevalier (Knight) or Count (King’s Companion) as an indication of membership into this ancient and elite caste.

The most famous of all Polish knights must surely have been King Jan III Sobieski, 1629-1696. Sobieski was an elected King, (Polish kings were elected from amongst the nobility after the extinction of the Jagellonian dynasty in 1572). During Sobieski’s reign Poland became a European superpower stretching to the borders of its Commonwealth from “The Baltic to the Black Sea”. The hour of Poland’s greatest triumph was the battle for the relief of Vienna, when on the 12 August 1683, King Sobieski rode to the head of a rag tag army of 70,000 Poles against the Muslim forces of Kara Mustapha. The body count for the battle of Vienna was enormous and the Muslim army lost more than 10,000 men. They lay in heaps in the dust for miles around. Polish losses were put as

low as several hundred but the more accepted figure was approximately 2,000. The great army of Islam, having been soundly defeated, found its foothold in Europe beginning to crumble. Kara Mustapha, the Visier who had commanded the Turks, was summoned to Constantinople by Prince Mahomet IV. As was the custom with defeated Muslim commanders, he was strangled with a silken cord. His head was removed and stuck on a spike at the gates of the Seraglio. King Sobieski’s lifetime reflected the most romantic period in the history of Polish nobility, “The Golden Age”. After his death the Polish Commonwealth was gradually broken up and destroyed via a series of partitions, which were to see the removal of Poland from the map of Europe for 123 years (1795-1918). The weakening of the Polish Commonwealth was, to a certain extent, due to the “liberum veto” (the free veto) in which any single Polish knight had it within his power to dissolve the proceedings of the Polish parliament. By the time the system of liberum veto had been amended enough to give the upper house of the Polish Senate more power, it was too late for Poland, and history ran its foreordained destiny.

In the 20th century the torch light of Polish nobility is kept aflame by the efforts of the Polish Nobility Association which has been established since the uprisings of the 1830’s. The Polish Nobility Association is under the Hetmanship of the Princes Chylinski-Polubinski, Poland’s most ancient Princely family as well by the very many Polish noble families spread throughout the world who have stayed in touch with their roots, proudly retained an awareness of the esteemed class from which they have descended and maintained an identity with their aristocratic forebears through the retention of a noble surname and linked coat of arms.

Perhaps a fitting way to end this paper on Polish heraldry and nobility is to quote the first line of a verse from the old Polish Legions which was later to become the national anthem of the Polish nation, “Jeszcze Polska nie Zginela, poki my zyjemy”/Poland is not yet lost as long as we are alive!

For more information on the Polish Nobility Association, please feel free to contact the author at: [kusza@ihug.co.nz](mailto:kusza@ihug.co.nz)

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRMAN

*Dr. Roger Chylinski-Polubinski*

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**F**irst and foremost, Happy 90th Birthday to PNAF Associate Editor, Alex Liston.

I would like to thank everyone who has sent in this year's Dues and Donations. If you were not aware, at the request of the members not residing in North America, we have added PayPal on the PNAF.US web site under Membership. For those members who might have missed the Dues reminder in the Winter Journal or busy with family/holiday activities, a separate reminder mailing is planned.

We hope in the near future to cover aspects of the proposed Saxon ascension as the hereditary Royal family of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 18th century.

This was reflected in the famous May 3rd Constitution which, but for a full and third partitioning of the "Commonwealth", would have made the Wettins of Saxony the hereditary Royals of Two Kingdoms (Poland and Saxony) and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. They later, under Napoleon, ruled the Duchy of Warsaw, and with Napoleon's final defeat, brought an end to that possibility.

For more information, visit [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick\\_Augustus\\_I\\_of\\_Saxony](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Augustus_I_of_Saxony).

Later, in the 20th century, Lithuania became free after the fall of the Romanov dynasty. The newly-formed governing council invited the Duke of Ulrich to become King of Lithuania with some stipulations. The future King must learn Lithuanian and reside in Lithuania. Apparently the hoped for support of Imperial Germany as an ally to leverage the Bolshevik threat to the newly independent Lithuania never materialized, as Germany was against the Duke's becoming King of Lithuania.

For more information, visit [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom\\_of\\_Lithuania\\_\(1918\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Lithuania_(1918)).

### **SOLICITATION OF ARTICLES**

All members are encouraged to submit articles and pictures for possible inclusion in the White Eagle Journal. Articles related to your family history, nobility, heraldry, genealogy, resources for searches, history, individuals in history of note, historical events, etc. All submittals longer than three pages may have a printed introduction in electronic and printed versions of the Journal and a LINK to the full article. Please submit materials to [VillaAnneslie@verizon.net](mailto:VillaAnneslie@verizon.net)

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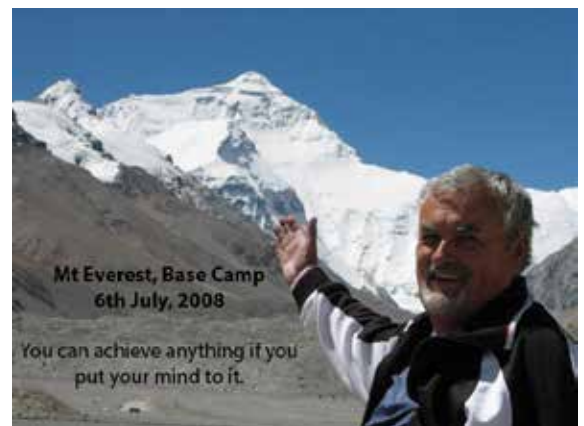
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**PNAF Welcomes New Members**  
**MEMBER PROFILE – DR. WALDEMAR A. BOGACKI: AUSTRALIA**

- 1966 graduated from School of Medicine Jagiellonian University – Krakow
- 1967 started work at Institute of Oncology –Krakow – Department of surgery
- 1971 specialist general surgery
- 1972 specialist surgical oncology
- 1974 Head of Department (Clinic) of Surgery Institute of Oncology –Krakow
- 1980 migrated to Australia –worked at Melanoma Clinic Sydney Hospital
- 1982 moved to Geelong and open own Bell Park Medical Clinic
- 2005 joined Corio Medical Centre later evolved into Northern Bay Health where I am still working



*Dr. Bogacki, wife Bernadette, daughter Kate, son Christopher at Mt. Everest northern base camp during our around the world trip.*



# A LOST FAMILY TREASURE-TROVE: 'BAH! HUMBUG!'

(C) Wieslaw George, Marquis de Helon GCEG, RML, PNA, JP (Qual.): Australia, 2015

Most of us grew up with our parents reading children's fairy tales to us; the likes of: Cinderella, The Goose that Laid the Golden Egg and Jack and the Beanstalk.

**So what is a fairy tale (sometimes known as nursery tale)?**

A fairy tale is a fictional story "about a strange incident, coincidence, marvellous progress etc.; an unreal or incredible story, a fabrication."<sup>1</sup>



*'Jack Climbing the Beanstalk'. Colour Woodcut by the artist and illustrator Elizabeth Colborne (1885-1948).*

For those unfamiliar with the fairy tale Jack and the Beanstalk, Jack - an impoverished lad - is instructed by his widowed mother to go to the market and sell her cow which has stopped giving milk. En route Jack meets a cunning old man who offers him some magic beans; Jack "exchanges his poor mother's cow for a handful of beans, which miraculously produce stalks reaching the sky. Jack climbs up them and steals treasures from the [Giant] Ogre's castle: a bag of gold, a wonderful lamp [traditionally a golden harp that plays itself] and the hen (or goose) that lays the golden eggs, thus redeeming their poverty."<sup>2</sup>

**But what has a fairy tale got to do with Nobility?**

Throughout our lives some of us may have heard one or two fantastic stories passed-down through the generations about there being some infamous, or famous ancestor in the family: a scallywag, a convict, a hero, an inventor, a Noble personage, even a Royal or two - a rich magnate who brought money, prestige, honour and grandeur to the family, which in turn attached and entrenched a sometimes fabled status to the surname in family lore.

**A Title of Nobility, a Coat-of-Arms - a lost treasure!**

Thorough genealogical and meticulous archival research is enough to prove a hereditary Noble Title, or even the right to bear a Coat-of-Arms, but how does one prove the tangible existence of a reputed long-lost family fortune; if it existed, or still exists at all?

Dr. Roger Chylinski-Polubinski (White Eagle. Winter 2015; p. 4.) said of ostensible grandiose family names that: "birth or wealth alone is insufficient to lay any claim for a legacy which might have been created by a relative bearing the same surname. Those who share in notable surnames are not necessarily worthy of the legacy [and great wealth] of those who became known for outstanding deeds."<sup>3</sup>

Proving one's family had any personal wealth or possessed any material hereditary property and assets within Poland, or within any of her historical geographic boundaries is fraught with many challenges, not least of which is locating those necessary archival documents which have been kept in a fragmentary state and dispersed the world over.

Having been geo-politically partitioned out of existence four times (1772, 1793, 1795 and 1939),<sup>4</sup> Poland had been culturally ravaged, economically sodomised and vehemently stripped of many of her national and historical treasures; her hereditary Noble Estates had been plundered and looted and their incumbent possessors and families were arbitrarily arrested, tried in absentia, deported and/or murdered - all of the physical properties, heritable chattels and fiscal assets of the wealthy and well-to-do 'bourgeoisie' were seized by the Soviet and Nazi States.

However, as late as February 1940 some of Poland's heritable Noble Estates and precious cultural treasures were still in the personal possession of their illustrious families who were domiciled in the fertile Kresy Region of Poland's far east.

As Russian troops marched further west, deportation and exile was now a looming reality, some families managed to spirit some of Poland's most culturally prized possessions and their more valuable personal assets out of the country.

(Continued on Page 8)

Others like "Prince Drucki-Lubecki buried his silver in his basement, and Count Alfred Potocki packed away his best things in hiding places and left the rest where they were."<sup>5</sup>

Some families like mine who were not quite so lucky were forced to resort to the more primitive and common practice of preservation and security - burial!

Committed to the ground were documents, jewellery, antiquities, porcelains, and one of the 'original' baroque sculptured Amber Room Panels which had been in the family's possession for over a century.

Originally located in the Catherine Palace in the town of Tsarskoye Selo near Saint Petersburg, the legendary Amber Room was once considered the Eighth Wonder of the World; it was dismantled and looted by the Nazis during the Second World War and never seen again!

The families of both of my parents were arbitrarily arrested and forcibly deported at gun-point by the Soviet NKVD to the inhospitable wastelands of the Siberian-Arkhangelsk interior on the 10th of February 1940; many of my relatives toiled in the most horrible of inhumane conditions, they suffered enormously, were starved, worked as slave labourers and perished in agony.

After escaping the Soviet Labour Camps, those of my families who were able, embarked on an arduous and heart-breaking odyssey to Krasnovodsk on the east bank of the Caspian Sea; from there the evacuees from the U.S.S.R. then had to sail 400 km to cross the Caspian Sea to Pahlevi (now Bandar-e Anzali), Persia (now Iran) where a Polish Free Army was being formed.

Of the 2.636 million<sup>6</sup> unfortunate souls condemned and sentenced in absentia to an unimaginable and arduous life of slavery, hardship and suffering in exile, only 115,000 (or 4.36%) made it out of the Soviet Union with the remnants of their families to join General Wladyslaw Anders' Polish Army under British Command.

Now fast forward almost 60 years to 1998 when my father returned to Australia from a trip abroad to see my grandmother in Poland; he handed me a scrunched-up dirty rag telling me quite emotionally "this is your inheritance."



***The Family Inheritance I received from my father - three seed pods wrapped up in an old dirty rag.***

As I unfolded the rag I found three dried seed pods. Taken aback, I immediately thought of how Jack received some beans for his mother's cow and how he climbed the Beanstalk to steal the Giant Ogre's treasures so that he was able to redeem the poverty of his family.

Once only known to my late grandmother and father, the location of the family fortune is now only known to me and awaits its restoration one day.

A lost treasure-trove, 'Bah! Humbug!' you might think, but sometimes - as the old adage goes - 'truth is stranger than fiction.'

Notes:

1. Shorter Oxford English Dictionary on Historical Principles, 6th Edition. Oxford University Press: Oxford, 2007; Vol. 1: A-M; p. 921.
2. Rockwood, Camilla, (ed.). Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase & Fable. Chambers Harrap Publishers Ltd: London, 2009; p.702.
3. Chylinski-Poľubinski, Dr. Roger. From the Desk of the Chairman. White Eagle: Journal of the Polish Nobility Association Foundation – Winter 2015: Baltimore, Maryland, United States of America; p. 4.
4. Golawski, M. Poland Through the Ages. Orbis (London) Limited: London, 1971; pp. 108, 118, 122 and 174.
5. Biggs, Barton. Wealth, War & Wisdom. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.: Hoboken, New Jersey, United States of America, 2009; p. 219.
6. Antoszewski, Roman. Kresowa Czystka Etniczna. Kurioza Naukowe / Ethnic Cleansing in the Kresy. Scientific Curiosities: Auckland, New Zealand; No. 930; Styczeń / January 2005; ISSN 1176-7545. Online Edition at [http://www.antoranz.net/CURIOSA/ZBIOR5/C0502/15-QZD05024\\_wywozki.HTM](http://www.antoranz.net/CURIOSA/ZBIOR5/C0502/15-QZD05024_wywozki.HTM)

(Continued on Page 9)





**A LOST FAMILY  
TREASURE-  
TROVE: 'BAH!  
HUMBUG!'**

*(Continued from Page 8)*

*Corner Section of  
the 'Reconstructed'  
Amber Room.*

*Source: Wikimedia  
Commons; released  
into the public  
domain 16 May  
2004.*

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**THE ENTITLEMENT TO RULE:  
LEGAL, NON-TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY IN INTERNATIONAL LAW**

Finally after four years of intense work, both volumes of Dr. Kerr's book, "The Entitlement to Rule: Legal, Non-Territorial Sovereignty in International Law" is now on the Internet: <http://www.the-entitlement-to-rule.com>

It is extremely rare that people interested in nobility and royalty fully understand or comprehend the legal right of the sovereign head of a deposed royal house to be a fons honorum with the lawful right to award honors and give special recognitions for merit. Nor do many know how to ensure that these sacred rights of authentic and true sovereignty are perpetuated. Such important and relevant legal realities will be addressed in great detail along with repeated examples based on historical, legal, and political precedents.

To get an idea of the depth of the subject matter covered in this book and find areas of special interest, see the Table of Contents for Volume I and the Table of Contents for Volume II.

Dr. Kerr has put together a remarkable book that could unify the whole field of nobility and royalty around the only subject upon which everyone could agree, that is, upon the need for the absolute rule of just laws.

Dr. Kerr was a special international legal counsel to the junior Austrian Branch of the Habsburgs for the recovery of entailed House properties confiscated in 1939 by the Third Reich. He is presently in the process of devising a new legal theory for the recovery of these properties.

(NKVD) and at other such horrid locations, during early World War II.

U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski abandoned her prepared speech in favor of “speaking from the heart.” “The Katyn victims were the flowers of a new Polish nation resurrected during the interwar years 1918 – 1939 ... which that devil, Stalin, tried to destroy. But it didn’t happen. The courage, tenacity and strong Catholic faith of the Polish people defeated him, and eventually established today’s free and democratic Poland.” Mikulski’s ample remarks also included references to the robust and stalwart political, military and familial ties between our two nations, Poland’s successes in European affairs and alliances, and the Smolensk/Katyn tragedy. Mikulski ended with the well-received promise that “the United States will always defend Poland.”

U.S. Congressman John Sarbanes eloquently commented on the different aspects and ramifications of Katyn suffered by the Polish nation, the horrors of genocide and dangers of intolerance.

Poland’s Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf emphasized that it was impossible to openly speak the truth about the Katyn Massacre in communist-dominated Poland. But the memory was kept alive by the families of the murdered and by the Polish diaspora abroad. He thanked Chairman Richard Poremski and the members of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation, and all of Baltimore’s Polonia for also keeping the memory of Katyn alive. He reminded everyone about the efforts of the post-World War II U.S. House of Representatives that fully investigated and disclosed the perpetrators of the massacre, as well as Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur who recently worked to declassify Katyn documents in the U.S. Archives.

Schnepf also remarked on this 5th Anniversary of the Smolensk/Katyn Air Catastrophe which took the lives of 96 leading individuals of Poland, including President Lech Kaczynski and his wife. “This was not only a great national tragedy, but also a major challenge for the functioning of the State. Poland survived this difficult time without destabilization, indicating the maturity of its democratic system and governing structures.”

Brigadier General Jaroslaw Strozyk, after speaking about the abject suffering of Poland under imposed

Soviet/communist domination, went on to emphasize that Poland is currently undergoing a modernization and sizable expansion of its ground and air forces. He said “We are ready for any contingency - there should be no doubt about that ... the Polish Armed Forces are ready to fight for freedom.” Strozyk concluded with the admonition that “Freedom is not granted by the oppressor, it must be demanded by the oppressed.”



***Taps for the Katyn Martyrs. Maryland National Guard Sergeant Keith DeFontes sounds “Taps” in memory of the 22,000 Polish military officers criminally massacred in the Katyn Forest, Russia by the Soviet Union in 1940. Poland’s Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, with Brigadier General Jaroslaw Strozyk and Lieutenant Colonel Karol Sobczyk, observe the melancholy military ritual.***

At the afternoon reception/dinner in the Great Hall of Polish National Alliance Council, Poland’s President Lech Kaczynski and 95 other victims of the catastrophic April 10, 2010 Smolensk/Katyn airplane crash were honored in a special ceremony with participants Consul General Piotr Konowrocki and B.G. Strozyk. The lives cut short included many of Poland’s top political, military and social strata elites. Ironically, they were all on a pilgrimage to the Katyn Forest to observe the 70th Anniversary of the Katyn Massacre. As a consequence, they all are now justly enshrined in the Katyn Pantheon of Hero’s.

On this wind-swept, cool and partly-sunny reflective Sunday, all who perished at Katyn were commemorated ... in the past by the hand of Josef Stalin’s Soviet Union ... and more recently by the capricious Hand of Fate.

# DUES PAID IN 2014-2015

Thank you one and all – members and friends – who have sent in 2015 Dues and Contributions. For those on the membership mailing list, if you missed the Winter 2015 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 June 7, 2015)* **Thank you for your continued support.**



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On behalf of the Rosenstiel Foundation, and upon the recommendation of Mrs. Blanka A. Rosenstiel, we are enclosing a check to the PNAF representing an unrestricted grant.

**MANY THANKS TO LADY BLANKA A. ROSENSTIEL,**  
*President of the American Institute of Polish Culture*

# THE BARBICAN AND ROYAL CASTLE: WARSAW POLAND



*Royal Castle*

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*(Bottom Right) Prince Jan Polubinski, PNAF Historical Pictures Archivist*