



WHITE EAGLE

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



SPRING/SUMMER 2007

WEBSITE: PNAF.US/

MILWAUKEE'S BAL MOSKOWY RECALLS POLAND'S GLORIOUS PAST AND A CELEBRATION OF ITS COLORFUL TRADITIONS

The Polish Bal Moskwy, a formal costume dinner-ball and one of the highlights of Milwaukee's social calendar took place February 3, 2007. As usual it was held at the elegant Wisconsin Club in downtown Milwaukee with monies raised going to support the Syrena Polish Dancers of Milwaukee. Attending the ball was Dr. Felix W. V.L. Holewinski, President of the Polish Nobility Association Foundation who has represented the Foundation at this event for several years.

The highlight of the ball was the performance of the Syrena Dancers who danced the very popular *Lancers Suit*. Wearing the colorful uniforms of Napoleon's Polish Lancers of the Imperial Guard, the dancers reenacted a typical formal



ball held in Poland during the Napoleonic Wars. The dance medley consisted mostly of various *mazurs* (a dance popular with the Polish nobility) and ended with the sound of a bugle that signaled the Lancers to mount their horses and go to battle. As the Lancers march off with their sabers drawn, their elegantly gowned ladies bid them farewell.

A sumptuous dinner was served before the dancing commenced and later during the ball the *Grand Polonaise* was danced, with everyone invited to join in, as pictured above.

The colorful costumes and feathered masks were reminiscent of such balls which were popular with the Polish nobility during the 18th century and while a variety of period costumes were worn, a number of individuals wore period costumes of the Polish Nobility.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The visit by Queen Elizabeth II to the United States to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the founding of the English colony of Jamestown in 1607 has been prominently covered by the news media. Yet behind all the publicity almost all Americans, including those of Polish ancestry are not aware of the important role that Poles played in the founding of the this the first permanent English settlement in what was eventually to become the United States. In fact, when I recently mentioned the fact that Poles contributed to a major extent to the success of this settlement to some of my local friends their response varied from doubt to outright ridicule. I had to show them material from a history book before they accepted my assertion. This response is very typical of most Americans including those of Polish ancestry, a total lack of appreciation of the special role that Poles played in the founding of our republic. The fact is that a group of Polish craftsmen were on the second ship that arrived at Jamestown in 1608, and by 1615, they had set up one of the first manufacturing enterprises in this new land. It was a glass factory and was one of several enterprises that they developed which contributed significantly to the viability of the colonies. In addition, they established the first craft union in the English colonies and eventually organized the first labor strike. What is of special significance is that this strike was aimed not at obtaining more money or fringe benefits but was for political rights. As non-English members of the colonies they did not have the right to vote or participate in political life. Their action, therefore, resulted in the House of Burgesses, the legislature of the Virginia Colony, granting for the first time, voting rights to all non-English settlers in the colony. This was a major broadening of democracy in this early English colony and presaged the future immigration of non-English settlers to the colony. Yet how many Americans are aware of this.

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WHITE EAGLE

The Journal of the
Polish Nobility Association
Foundation
Villa Anneslie
529 Dunkirk Rd.
Anneslie 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

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There are numerous other cases in which Poles have contributed significantly to United States history which have been swept under the rug, so to speak. There are several reasons for this but one is certainly a basic prejudice against Polish culture and history expressed most recently by “Polak” jokes. The fact that Poles over the centuries could have had a significant impact on United States history doesn’t fit the stereotype promoted by certain segments of the American public. As Norman Davies states in his outstanding book *God’s Playground*, “In the vicious world of the American ethnic jungle, the ‘stupid and ignorant Pole’ has been widely accepted as standard stereotype, and provides the butt for innumerable and insulting ‘Polish jokes. How different from the popular stereotype of the ‘noble Polish lord’ still current in parts of Europe!” Even President Woodrow Wilson as a professor at Princeton expressed the view that Poles were “inferior.” It is, therefore, not surprising that even today Americans simply do not understand or appreciate the contributions that Poles have made in our nation. Many people know, for example that Kosciuszko fought for American independence but how many know that he was responsible for the field fortifications at the critical battle of Saratoga or that he is considered by most historians as the founder of the United States Corps of Engineers or that Pulaski was the founder of the United States Cavalry.

More and more, in a gesture to political correctness and cultural pluralism, the contributions of European ethnic groups in the United States are being pushed aside in United States school history texts, by a greater emphasis on the contributions of non-European ethnic groups, even when such contributions may be ephemeral in nature. Such a trend not only distorts history but pushes the achievements and contributions by European ethnic groups like Poles to the sidelines.

Polish-American parents should share with their children the glorious accomplishments and contributions made to American and world history and culture and should review the history texts of their children and demand that the contributions of Poles in American history be included in any history curriculum. In our increasing polyglot American society the group that shouts the loudest gets the attention. We must therefore shout as loud as other ethnic groups to ensure that the story of Poles in America be fully told.



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 submissions 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 Journal alluding to its location and content. . If possible it would facilitate the editing of the Journal if articles could be sent as an email attachment or put on a cd-rom using Microsoft word. If this is not possible then submission of typed hard copy would be acceptable. Please submit any such articles to Dr. Felix W. v. L-Holewinski.

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THE 'OTHER' WINGED HUSSARS...OF LITHUANIA

BY CHEV. RIK SULIMA-SULIGOWSKI FOX

The history of the hussars as an identifiable military formation began in 1458 when Matthias Corvinus, King of Hungary, created special cavalry squadrons to safeguard the borders from Turkish incursions. The great magnates of Hungary supported the king's efforts by providing one fully armed hussar for every twenty men that they sent into the army. The hussars were introduced into the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth from Hungary by Stefan Batory, Prince of Transylvania, when he became the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania in 1576.

Initially his bodyguards, the hussars soon entered the regular forces. In eagerness, Batory hoped to liberate Hungary and especially, regain Lithuanian lands lost to Muscovy, but died in 1586 (some speculate by poisoning), before fulfilling his plans. According to Brzezinski, in his Osprey publication, *Polish Winged Hussar 1576-1775*, pg 6-7: "At the battle of Lubieszow / Liebschau (1577) during the Danzig rebellion, King Stefan Batory's heavy hussars immediately proved itself a battle winner, where 3,000 German Landsknechts were routed by the hussars, but only after they had been engaged frontally, by 600 Hungarian Haiduk infantry of the royal guard. He followed up with a series of victories over the Muscovite Russians (1579-82). Further successes came at Byczyna / Pitschen (1588), against a Hapsburg army and at Bukow / Bucou (1600), over the Moldavians. Hussars now formed 75 percent or more of the cavalry and seemed invincible on the eastern battlefield. Their greatest triumph was at a series of dramatic victories against overwhelming odds over the Swedes at Kokenhusen (1601), Weissenstein (1604), and Kirchholm (1605), and against a Russo-Swedish force at Kluszyn / Klushino (1610)".

Batory's achievements included regaining Livonia from Ivan the Terrible, and the foundation of a Jesuit Academy, eventually becoming the University of Vilnius.

When Batory assumed the throne, service in the Lithuanian cavalry had long been the established way of life for every *bajoras*, i.e. able-bodied males holding landed property. The Lithuanian Statute of 1529 spelled out their traditional duties in the section dealing with state defense. We note that when the call-to-arms was issued, every *bajoras* was obligated to report to his local superior officer, called a *veliavininkas* (flag-bearer), on a good horse, carrying armor, helmet, and shield, armed with a sword and a lance. In 1528 the Lithuanian army raised 19,844 men; in 1567 the head count reached 27,708 men. The smallest homesteads sent individual *bajorai*; the largest estates sent entire companies. The wealthiest families such as the *Sapiega*, (*Sapieha*), *Pacas*, (*Pac*), *Radvilla* (*Radziwill*), *Chodkevicius* (*Chodkiewicz*), had their own forces. Of the great magnate clans, only four were obligated to always be on guard, maintaining fortresses and personal armies. In 1601 the Polish-Lithuanian Sejm (Diet) stipulated that the *Zamoyski*'s must have 200 armed men on permanent duty; the *Gonzaga-Myszkowski*'s, 150 armed men. The *Ostrogski*'s in Poland, and the *Radvila* (*Radziwill*) family in Lithuania, were each required to maintain an army of six-thousand for the defense of the realm. Hussars were included in these numbers, but their exact part of the total is uncertain.



Figure 1: 'Choragiew pancerna na Josef Holewicza' (Armored unit/banner of Josef Holewicz)

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The hussars, the most prestigious troops in the cavalry, became the service units of choice for the middle and high *bajorai*, the country's warrior class. Wages were a third higher for the elite hussars. Moreover, on completing a six-year stint of duty, the retired hussar could aspire to important positions in the civil service. Advancement in the state apparatus was quickest for those who had served in the front lines. Understandable, there was no shortage of volunteers from the Lithuanian cavalry, which provided the hussar units with a steady stream of well-trained lancers. Indeed, it was under 'Piorun' (The Thunderbolt), as he was known, Jan Karol Chodkiewicz, whose Polish-Lithuanian *Husaria* cavalry who, (with the help of the artillery and infantry), used the tactical strategy learned of the Tatars, to beat back the Swedish army at Kirchholm in 1605.

The hussars could be useful off the battlefield. Take, for instance, the simmering feud between the Radvila and Chodkevicius families, which, in 1599 almost exploded into a bloody civil war. To show that they meant business, the Radvila faction occupied the streets of Vilnius with an army of several thousand led by a hundred hussars. Not at all intimidated, the Chodkevicius side responded by aiming two dozen cannons towards the Radvila mansion a few blocks away! Fortunately for everyone involved, the matter was peacefully resolved in court.

Wars became deadlier than ever in the 17th Century, and required skilled, well-armed, and experienced soldiers. Most countries created permanent standing armies. Poland and Lithuania, however, resorted to mercenaries. In 1650-52, for instance, the Lithuanian army sought to hire fifteen-thousand professional soldiers; in 1654, the budget allocated funds for eighteen-thousand. Mercenaries responded from Germany, Holland, Sweden, Hungary, even Scotland and Wallachia (modern Romania). Hired individually, or as a full artillery battery, or as a score of infantry or pikemen, they brought the army to its full strength and did better against other professional soldiers. Yet according to Brzezinski, in comparison to the better-armed and equipped Polish hussars: "The conservative Lithuanians lagged behind, and Kitowicz notes that they continued to wear the old style saddle-mounted wings: 'the Lithuanian hussars...after mounting the horse, fastened to the left side a huge wing made of ostrich feathers,



Figure 2: 'Battle of Kirchholm' by Wojciech Kossak, Hetman Chodkiewicz in the background

which covered the whole side of the horse and the rider's leg to his ankles'."

Bajorai continued to fill the ranks of the Lithuanian cavalry, which generally numbered ten to twelve-thousand lancers, plus their attendants and servants. Troop call-up registers of the mid 17th century reveal how many men each part of the country was expected to raise. Zemaitija (Samogitia) had to provide one hussar for very fifty households, thereby sending three "flags" of these units, i.e. about three hundred hussars. The smaller Ukmerge region, by contrast, was to send only forty-two hussars. Not enough for a complete unit, these men would join another 'flag', say, that from Upyte, with its one hundred forty-two hussars.

The armors and weaponry of the Lithuanian hussars were pretty much the same standard issue as used by the Polish *husaria*, give or take, and the tactical strategy as deployed by the Hetman or, field commanders, taught them to use many different styles, as learned from the various enemies they fought from the east and west. Add to this, the military science of Jan Tarnowski and



Figure 3: *Hussar* illustration by Dariusz T. Wielec

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Dr. Holewinski wore a reproduction of a typical circa 1690 - 1710 Magnates apparel. The undergarment is a red brocade cassock-like garment with a stand-up collar called a zupan. This was one of the most common basic apparel worn of the nobility, in particular the Magnates. Its numerous buttons down the front were ball shaped and set with small gems. The outer garment is a blue velvet delia, a heavy open coat with a large fur collar, ornamental slit sleeves and a yellow satin lining. This garment was preferred by Magnates into the 17th century while the kontuz, a closed outer coat, gained more popularity among the rest of the noble class. Around the waist was wrapped an elaborately patterned gold and blue silk brocade sash. This sash is typical of the type that became popular among the Polish nobility toward the end of the 17th century. Copied from those worn in the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) these sash, 3 to 5 inches width, were tied at the side with the loose fringed ends hanging at ones side. A sword belt is worn under the sash with a jeweled open hilted Polish saber worn from the sword belt. On his head Dr. Holewinski wears a typical nobleman's cap, called a kolpak. It is made of red velvet and lined and trimmed with fur. As was popular among the nobility the kolpak was worn with a jeweled brooch which held various types of feathers. Finishing off the costume are the high yellow riding boots so distinctive to the Polish nobility and a heavy silver chain from which is suspended a large piece of Polish Amber. Such jeweled chains were extremely popular among the Magnate class who loved the ostentatious display of wealth.



The entire evening captured the colorful elegance of Poland's bygone age and celebrated the nation's rich history and culture which dominated much of Eastern Europe from the 15th into the 18th century.

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the artillery wizardry of Kazimieras Semenavicius and it is no exaggeration to say that the experienced Polish and Lithuanian armies were steeped in the then, cutting-edge military know-how, which other countries began to study and learn from, in later centuries. Although the King of Poland was simultaneously the Grand Duke of Lithuania and the supreme commander of both distinct forces, the armies of Poland and Lithuania were separate, completely independent entities; Polish troops could not enter Lithuania without permission. Likewise for the Lithuanian army crossing into Poland, with each force led by its own Hetman, a name derived from the German Hauptmann.

Robert I. Frost states in his 'The Northern Wars, 1558-1721': "Peter Englund begins his book *Ofredsar*, based on the experiences of the Swedish soldier, artist and diarist Erik Dahlberg in the 1640's and 1650's with a vivid description of the Battle of Warsaw (28-30 July 1656). In it he describes the charge of Aleksander Polubinski's hussars against the left wing of the Swedish and Brandenburg forces on the second day of the battle. He depicts in loving detail, their magnificent appearance, with long lances, their glistening helmets and breastplates, the tiger, leopard and lion skins worn by their officers, and their most famous accouterment: the eagle and heron feathers, mounted on wooden frames fixed to their backs, which rustled and fluttered when they charged (...) by the time the Poles launched Polubinski's hussars, the Swedish-Brandenburg allies had consolidated their position (...) The charge was launched not against the allied infantry in the center, but against the reiter units that flanked it. Although they suffered from infantry flanking fire, Polubinski's hussars smashed into the reiters, with the brunt of the impact absorbed by the Uppland and Smaland regiments. The hussars performed their primary task, breaking through the first line and penetrating into the second, where they were brought to a halt and forced back. The failure of the attack was due to the main problem that the initial attack was not followed up; John Casimir (not a great tactician), simply had too few hussars. A maximum of 800 took part in Polubinski's charge; it was not enough, and the pancerna cavalry in reserve did not press home the attack. Although the charge was truly heroic, Warsaw was lost to the Swedes, and the Ghost of Kirchholm was put to rest."

Despite an occasional defeat, the usually successful hussars remained a crack fighting force into the early years of the 18th century, especially at Berestechko, Chocim and Vienna, but their earlier successes led to some complacency. In fact, as Sobieski awaited the Lithuanian forces to join him in the Vienna campaign, for political reasons, the Lithuanians took their time in mobilizing, and mostly missed the glory of the battle. However, years later, arriving in Vilnius at the end of June, 1812, Napoleon lost little time in creating a provisional government and re-establishing the Army of Lithuania (...) Fifteen thousand men were then added to another twelve thousand Lithuanians who crossed the border between 1806 and 1809 to join the Duchy of Warsaw's army. The



Figure 4: Detail from 'Ein Gefecht', by Josef Brandt, Hussars slam into the Swedish lines

Lithuanian infantry and cavalry units created by Napoleon were initially under his direct command and did not yet receive orders from the Polish general staff.

Of the innumerable formations of Napoleon's Grand Armée we should take note of the prestigious Imperial Guard and its three, exclusive lancer regiments. Polish uhlans filled the 1st Regiment; Dutch "Red Lancers," the 2nd Regiment. The 3rd Light Lancer Regiment of the Imperial Guard was Lithuanian. This elite unit demonstrated Napoleon's high regard for the Lithuanian cavalry of old, spearheaded for two centuries by the magnificent 'winged' hussars of Poland and Lithuania.

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MARSHAL PILSUDSKI AND THE DREAM OF A NEW POLISH COMMONWEALTH



Pilsudski's family Coat of Arms

Joseph Pilsudski is something of an enigma in history. Almost completely unknown outside of Poland and viewed with mixed feelings within Poland itself, he stands as a transitional figure between the old romantic aristocratic Poland and the new emerging modern Poland. As such his beliefs and policies frequently appeared contradictory and no one was more controversial than Pilsudski with his vision of re-establishing the pre-partition Jagellonian Commonwealth.

Before we can truly understand, Pilsudski's policies and their impact on Polish and European history, however, we must first understand Pilsudski the man and consider his background.

Joseph Pilsudski was born into a prominent noble Lithuanian family in the village of Zalow, the site of his family's estate. Like most members of the Lithuanian nobility, however, he was brought into a family that viewed themselves as members of the Polish nobility and Lithuania as an integral part of the Polish state and the eastern bastion of Polish culture. His family's position in the social-political hierarchy was that of the upper landed nobility or szlachta zamozna. The family had sufficient wealth to maintain its legal noble status within the Russian Empire even after the partitions of Poland. As a consequence, Joseph Pilsudski was listed in Russian records as a "nobleman." This family coat of arms was a variant of the clan arms Kosciesza but was a "wlasny" arms meaning it was held only by Joseph Pilsudski's specific family and not shared with any other family. He was introduced to Polish literature and history by his mother and was surrounded by family of strong Polish patriotic inclinations. At an early age he developed a hatred of the Russification program of the Tsarist government and as a committed Catholic he resented being forced to attend Orthodox Church services. As a member of the nobility he was privileged to receive a good education and studied medicine at the University of Kharkov in the Ukraine. While at college he became a revolutionary and unusual for a scion from a noble family, became a radical socialist. He eventually participated during the years prior to World War I in various anti-Russian revolutionary activities and groups and was arrested and imprisoned. Despite his radical political views, however, he remained a passionate Polish nationalist.

During World War I Pilsudski organized the Polish Legion and fought against the Russians more than he fought for Germany and when he refused to swear allegiance to the German state he was imprisoned making him a national hero by the end of the war.

With the end of World War I Pilsudski had become the most dominant national political as well as military figure whose influence and following within the Polish government was considerable. He, however, refused to align himself with any political party and was distrusted by most professional politicians in the government. Given his prestige and national following he used his position to exploit the provisions of the peace treaty which left Poland's east boarder undefined. He saw an opportunity to pursue his long time dream of reestablishing the boundaries and structure of the old Polish Commonwealth. This was a passionate goal that had always been central to his beliefs. As a Lithuanian noble he held the view that all of the various Slavic ethnic groups that made up the old Commonwealth were an integral part of Polish culture. He was supposed to have once said that 'Lithuania was more truly Polish than Poland.' As for his radical socialism which for a time alienated him from conservatives, he said to a friend that 'when I got on the Socialist train I got off when it reached an independent Poland.'

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Pilsudski's dream of creating a new Jagiellonean Commonwealth was based not simply on historic romanticism but also on practical economic and political considerations. He saw the vast eastern territories of the former Commonwealth as a buffer zone or shield against the threat of Russian Communism and as an area for expanding Poland's economic markets. As a consequence, Pilsudski, taking advantage of the civil war then being waged throughout Russia, initiated military action to achieve Polish eastward expansion into the land of the old Commonwealth. In 1918 Polish troops moved into western Ukraine and seized Eastern Galicia, in 1919 after failed negotiations with Lithuania invaded Middle Lithuania and seized the area around Wilno and finally on February 1919 Polish troops drove into Byelorussia starting the Polish-Soviet War. The Soviet Army responded in 1920 with a massive counter-attack which threatened to overwhelm Poland. Russian forces drove to the gates of Warsaw but in the Battle of Warsaw Pilsudski's brilliant tactical maneuver stopped and then drove back Soviet forces, completely destroying three Russian Armies and crippling a fourth. Pilsudski pressed the advantage and as Polish forces struck deep into Russian territory the entire Russian eastern front collapsed and Soviet forces disintegrated opening the entire Russian homeland to unchallenged invasion. To avoid a complete national disaster the Soviet government expressed its willingness to offer Poland all the territory it desired for an immediate ceasefire. It appeared that Pilsudski was close to achieving his dream of reconstructing the old Jagiellonian Commonwealth. Fate, however, was to intervene. England and France fearful that Poland's aggressive expansion threatened to destabilize Eastern Europe, as a consequence, intervened by putting pressure on the Polish government to halt the eastward movement of its troops and come to some kind of settlement with the Soviet government. Responding to this pressure, Jan Dabski, chief Polish negotiator quickly conceded and signed the Treat of Riga with the Soviet government while Polish troops were still moving eastward unopposed. The treaty stopped hostilities and froze the movement of all Polish troops. The result of the treaty was that only half of Byelorussia and most of the Ukraine remained outside Polish control. Pilsudski was outraged. He called the treaty an "act of cowardice" and forever marked Jan Dabski as his enemy against whom he would eventually take reprisal

after he seized power in a military coupe 1926 which would make him dictator of Poland.

Ultimately Pilsudski's dream of reestablishing the old Polish Commonwealth was frustrated by the realities of a changing world. While Pilsudski, as a traditional Polish-Lithuanian noble, may have resurrected the old concept of a multi-ethnic Polish Commonwealth this concept originally existed in a totally different world. It came from an age in which an all powerful Polanized landed nobility saw common cause in union with Poland while native peasants in Lithuania, Byelorussia, and the Ukraine lacked any national identity. By the 20th century, however, the peasant and middle classes in these regions had not only developed a strong national identity of their own, separate from that of Poland, but with the collapse of the social, economic and political power of the landed nobility, these lower classes now had political control in these regions. The result of this was that there was little popular enthusiasm in these areas for political union with Poland. Pilsudski and the Polish Army, as a consequence, had to use military force rather than diplomatic persuasion to obtain control of the eastern territories and repression to hold on to these lands. The resulting Polish state did not resemble the old Commonwealth not only in the extent of its territory but also in its structure and administration. Rather than a loose confederation of semi-autonomous ethnic regions joined with Poland in common interest as was the case in the old Commonwealth, the modern Polish state exerted central control from Warsaw and imposed Polish language, religion, and culture in these non-Polish lands. Thinking in the past, Pilsudski and the Polish government he eventually controlled, failed to realize how things had changed in these old Commonwealth lands. They became increasingly frustrated by the resistance exhibited by the non-Polish native populations and unfortunately resorted to the same methods of violence and repression that had been previously used against Poland and its populations by occupying powers. Pilsudski's dream of the old Jagiellonian Commonwealth had died way before the invasion of German troops in September of 1939. It died as soon as Poland failed to obtain the territorial extent of the old Commonwealth and the Polish governments attempted to Polanize the newly annexed non-Polish lands.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS, NOTES, AND CORRESPONDENCE

IRENA UDERSKA, ASSOCIATE EDITOR AND LONDON CORRESPONDENT

UK - The lead article in the Spring 2007 Catholic periodical, *Mater Dei* is the life of Claude, Countess of Kinnoull. She was born a member of the Wills tobacco family and became a Catholic soon after the death of her infant son. After the break-up of her marriage she lived in Paris. There she moved in right-wing Catholic circles. Her friends included Viscount Leon de Poncis, the author of a member of books detailing the secret powers that lie behind revolutions. Lady Kinnoull is described as having "the character of a crusader". Thus it was that she used her great fortune to support General Franco during the Spanish Civil War. She also at this time worked as a war correspondent in an effort to counter left-wing anti-Nationalist propaganda. She died in July 1985 at her home in Carmel, California. The cover of *Mater Dei* shows the splendid painting of Lady Kinnoull in Spain at the bullfight.

London - The Riverside Studios, Hammersmith, West London, hosted its 5th Polish Film Festival 15th – 18th March 2007. The films included CARACAS which was inspired by "Youth", a short story by Joseph Conrad (Teodor Jozef Konrad Korzeniowski herb Nalecz). The film version tells the tale of a sailor's trip to Bangkok.

UK - The London Evening Standard *ES Magazine* devoted its 24th April 2007 issue to power couples. The list was headed by the supermodel Jacquetta Wheeler and the top fashion photograph Alexi Lubomirski, the son of Prince Ladislav Lubomirski. Although most of the photographs illustrating the article were contemporary scenes in the couple's life, there was a delightful photograph of a 1788 painting of an infant Prince Lubomirski as Cupid.

Bohemia - Eagle Glassheim's book, *Noble Nationalists: The Transformation of the Bohemian Aristocracy* is now available in London bookshops. It details how after World War I the Bohemian Nobility "quickly became a target" and shows their subsequent efforts "to define their place in the revolutionary order". Threatened with land reform etc. it left them with little alternative but to ally with either the Czech or German national

parties. The book concludes with a final section entitled, "Return to Bohemia, Return to Europe" which described how various nobles have come back to rebuild their lives and in many cases to regain their properties.

London – The annual Berkeley Dress Show, organized by Jennie Hallam Peel, took place in April this year at the Dorchester Hotel. The guest of honour was Princess Katarina of Serbia. The event, held as always in aid of charity, consisted of a champagne reception, catwalk show, auction and dinner, followed by "waltzing in the ballroom".

London – On 21st November 2006 the Manorial Society of Great Britain held a Seminar at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly. The subject of the Seminar was "Toddington Manor, Gloucestershire", the former home of the Sudeley family. Lord Sudeley introduced the proceedings. Then Professor Michael McCarthy spoke about the architecture of the house and Dr. Megan Aldrich spoke about the furnishings. John Hardy, from Christie's, discussed the provenance of the furniture while Anita Gut, from Sotheby's, enthused about the Swiss glass. This was followed by Simon Walding on the landscaping of the Park. Finally Benedict Read concluded with a discussion on the Toddington sculptures. Also in between coffee, lunch and tea, everyone was able to view the glorious Sudeley Pedigree Roll which was on display for the day.

In 1985 the Manorial Society of Great Britain actually hosted a three-day conference on Toddington at Toddington itself and as a result had in 1987 published, *The Sudeley – Lords of Toddington*, a fascinating book which details the ups and downs of the Sudeley family and their ancestral home. Chapter 17 on the furniture of Toddington is from the talk given by Janusz Karczewski-Slowikowski. Chapter 12 is on the Berkeley Company while Chapter 5 on Becket's murder is by Lord Sudeley himself. The November 2006 Seminar is intended as an update to this book and a second edition will be published in due course.

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The White Eagle in its Spring/Summer 1997 and 1999 issues carried short articles on the Manorial Society of Great Britain. The Executive Chairman is Robert Smith and Lord Sudeley is a member of its governing Council. Prior to the Seminar the Manorial Society held a dinner on 20th November 2006 at Brook's, St James Street, London, to celebrate its centenary.

Merlin Hanbury-Tracy, 7th Baron Sudeley, is an old friend of the PNAF and has in fact visited Villa Anneslie on two occasions. The second of these occasions was featured in *The White Eagle* Fall/Winter 1999 issue. Lord Sudeley is the Vice Chancellor of the International Monarchist League and the Chairman of the Constitutional Monarchy Association.

Germany – Florian Maria Georg Christian, Count Henckel von Donnersmarck, (born 2nd May 1973 in Cologne), has won accolades and prizes galore as the director/writer of *The Lives of Others* – a film drama showing the tortured process by which a Stasi officer “is drawn into covertly protecting the man he has been instructed to destroy”.

Count Florian is the younger son of Count Leo-Ferdinand and Countess Anna Maria nee von Berg. His uncle Count Gregor is the Cistercian Abbot of Heiligenkreuz Abbey in Austria. Count Florian's wife, Countess Christiane nee Asschenfeld, is a leading intellectual property rights lawyer whose business dealings traverse eight countries. They have three children.

Luxembourg – The death was announced 1st March 2007 of Princess Marie-Adelaide. She was born in 1924, the second of the four daughters of the Grand Duchess Charlotte and Prince Felix of Bourbon-Parma. In 1958 Princess Marie-Adelaide married Carl Josef, Count Henckel von Donnersmarck. One of their sons, Count Andreas, is married to Princess Johanna von Hohenberg.

France – The victor of the French Presidential elections 6th May 2007 is the Hungarian nobleman Nicolas Paul Stephane Sarkozy de Nagy-Bocsa. He was born in Paris in 1955, the son of Pal Sarkozy de Nagy-Bocsa. Pal Sarkozy was born in Budapest in 1928. His father was a member of Hungary's Calvinist aristocracy while

his mother Katalin Toth de Csafor was a member of the Catholic nobility. After the Soviets seized Hungary the family's possessions were confiscated and Pal Sarkozy fled to France. His widowed mother covered for him by reporting him drowned. Nicolas Sarkozy's parents divorced when he was four years old. Pal Sarkozy then went on to be the flamboyant owner of an advertising agency. He owned several houses, two yachts, and collected paintings by Picasso and Matisse.

Interestingly one of the most influential members of Nicolas Sarkozy's election team was Axel Poniatowski (herb Ciolek) who is a member of Parliament for Sarkozy's centre-right UMP party. Prince Axel is the second of the three sons of the late Prince Michel Poniatowski (1922 – 2002). Prince Michel was a prominent politician who master-minded Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's election as President. For this he was rewarded with the post of Minister of the Interior 1974 – 1977. Prince Michel's eldest son, Ladislas, is also a Senator for the UMP.

The first round of the French Presidential elections took place 22nd April 2007. At that stage there were twelve candidates bidding for the Elysee. Among them was Philippe de Villiers who was standing as the head of his own right-wing nationalist party, *Mouvement Pour La France*. His electoral slogan was “Pride in being French” and he stood against the “Islamisation” of France and for traditional Catholic values. Viscount Phillippe Le Jolis de Villiers de Saintignon is a nobleman from the Vendee. He received 3% of the vote and came sixth.



MAJOR EDWARD R. KAMINSKI, RET.

Age 69, long time supporting member of the PNAF, of Wayside, Ocean Township, died unexpectedly on Tuesday January 16, 2007. He was the son of the late Edward A. and Eleanor G. (Polewaczyk) Kaminski. He was born and raised in Worcester, Massachusetts and a retired major of the U.S. Army having served 20 years. He leaves his wife, Christine Kwon Kaminski; a brother, Donald F. a newpew, Edward Adam and a niece Elizabeth Lousie and numerous cousins. Funeral arrangements were made in Key Largo, Florida

A multi-ethnic Commonwealth under one Polish ruler and Polish cultural influence was a unique political experiment which served its participants well during a long and turbulent period of history. The rise, however, of the modern nation-state unfortunately doomed its re-birth in the 20th century. What is interesting is that with the advent of the 21st century and the growth in the importance of international organizations, trade blocks and globalization the basic concept of an Eastern European multi-national Commonwealth may now represent a new viable and beneficial concept for the future of Poland and all of Eastern Europe.



Polish White and Red Debutante Dinner-Ball held at the Chicago Hilton. This event is one of two remaining white-tie ethnic balls held in Chicago.

LATE BULLETIN AS WE GO TO PRESS:

An Investiture of Knights and Dames into *The Order of St Stanislas* is be held on Saturday, May 5, 2007 at the Mission Inn Chapel, Riverside, California 12:30 P.M., Followed by a Toast & Dinner at the St. Francis Chapel of the Mission Inn, 3:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.



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