

**Strybel - Georgia from 1**

because an attack on Poland would amount to an attack on NATO, to which Poland belongs, and on the US, the alliance's chief power.

But there seemed little doubt that the Georgian flare-up was but a symptom of Russia's resurgent imperial designs. The Kremlin once again seems to regard the former Soviet republics such as Georgia and Ukraine and to some extent former Soviet satellites such as Poland and the Czech Republic as its sphere of influence. Any of those areas has the potential of becoming a playing field in Russia's bid to resume its former role of one of the world's two superpowers. And the strategic, energy-rich Black and Caspian Sea basins are an especially coveted prize.

As a result, Russian troops were in no hurry to withdraw from Georgia even though Moscow had signed as cease-fire, brokered by French President Nicolas Sarkozy. And all indications were that Russia would continue to stir up trouble by arming and backing separatist movements in Georgia's break-away regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, even though in the eyes of international law they constitute integral parts of the Georgian Republic.

The Russians had hoped the region's instability would prevent Georgia from being admitted to NATO – something they fiercely oppose – but that plan may have backfired. At NATO's April summit in Bucharest, Romania, "old Europe" gave Georgia and Ukraine only a vague promise of possible membership at some unspecified future date, while a Polish-led group of alliance newcomers forcefully lobbied for enlargement. But following the recent clashes, Germany's influential Chancellor Angela Merkel flew to Tbilisi and also echoed Warsaw's long-standing position that Georgia should join the North Atlantic Alliance. And Sarkozy has also begun talking tough to the Russians — according to the many, the only language they know. □

**Janek's Corner from 4**

states used to create official birth records of each individual. Such records are now being kept by the National Archives. Searching through the National Archives proved successful as far as my American friend's case is concerned. He knew the exact place of birth of his grandmother who was born in the second half of the 1800s. Helping him, I found out that the village in question was located in OstPreussen; therefore, I contacted the National Archives which were highly helpful.

To evaluate on the Second Formula out of context, it applies well in the cases when a researcher can assume that the official state-produced birth records were used in the area of his interest. Knowing the name of the city/village, the researcher can look for it in the online database of the National Archives. <http://baza.archiwa.gov.pl/sezam/pradziad.php?l=en> (in English) Putting the name of the place of birth in an appropriate gap, the database should show the local branch of the National Archives where such records are being stored now. Some of these branches might help with "roots-searching."

Unfortunately, those formulas have their drawbacks, especially when you are unable to find a place of birth or/and the name of a city/village. In such cases, I suggest contacting the Polish Genealogical Association at <http://www.genealodzy.pl/> This Association seems to be helping a lot of people around the world who are doing "roots-searching."

I hope this article will be helpful for those who have for long been negligent about their background, and encourage them to do "roots-searching." □

**Profiles - Sienkiewicz from 2**

From Sienkiewicz's travels to Italy came the world known bestseller "Quo Vadis". This book was translated into numerous languages including Arabic and Japanese. The first movie based on "Quo Vadis" was made in 1913. Later four more movies were made based on this book. Even an Opera was composed from the story.

His journey to Africa was an inspiration for Sienkiewicz to write the beloved book for young and old "W Pustyni I W Puszczy". Based on that book a full length movie was made in Poland in the year 1971 and a television serial based on that book was made in 2001.

A great inspiration for his outstanding book "Krzyżacy" (Knights of the Cross) was Sienkiewicz's journey to Spain. The book became the first full length movie sensation when the film was made in Poland in the year 1960.

No other writer became so well known and so widely read as Henryk Sienkiewicz. The coronation of his achievements came in 1905 when the Nobel prize for literature was given to him. In his acceptance speech, Sienkiewicz said the following words.

"It is a great honor, especially for a son of Poland whom the world looked upon as dead, nonexistent. I, and my books are proof that Poland is alive and proof that Poland can be a winner."

Those words were said 13 years before Poland gained her freedom after 150 years of enslavement by three powerful countries, Russia, Germany, and Austria.

Sienkiewicz left Poland for Switzerland at the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. Two years later, he died in 1916 in Vevey, Switzerland.

In 1924 Henryk Sienkiewicz's remains were brought back to a free Poland. He was buried at the St. John Cathedral in Warsaw, Poland. □

**Michał Drobniewski**

known and quite a common symbol identified by various names. In China it was known as "van", in England – "fylfot", Greece – "tetrascelion and/or gammadion", India – "swastika". For ages the Native Americans used the swastika as their tribal insignias. Members from Apache, Navajo, Hopi and some 50 smaller tribes that formed the American 45th Infantry, on active duty during both World Wars in Europe, wore swastika solder patches on their uniforms until 1930s.

(As a point of interest, the 45th can trace its roots to 1890 then known as the "Oklahoma Territorial Militia". Many of the militia members were Native Americans (Indians) who were defeated by the US Army and were forced to live on reservations in the Oklahoma Territory. The 45th. activated mostly from the Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Oklahoma National Guardsmen fought in WWII and is best remembered for defeating the Germans in Anzio, in one of the bloodiest battles of the war. Many believe that this was the turning point in the Allies victory in Europe. The 45th together with the 42nd, liberated the remaining 32,000 barely living survivors – among them around 1,300 German citizens. Originally over 200,000 captives were sentenced and held in Dachau Concentration Camp in Germany. Many imprisoned were religious of various denominations. Dachau once was a quaint mid evil town miles from Munich today however, it is its suburb with a much different reputation. Prior to the start of WWII, the 45th. changed its insignia to a yellow Thunderbird on a red background which also is a popular Native American symbol. A Thunderbird is an Indian legendary mythical bird that causes thunder and lightning.)

Ancient swastikas were discovered in Persia, Pakistan, Mesopotamia, on terracotta articles and vases in Greece, Cyprus and Crete. On a vase displayed recently in Vienna, the image of Apollo is adorned with a swastika. Recent excavations in Turkey uncovered metallic standards in the shape of swastika alongside corpses dating back to the 22nd century B.C. Abrahamic religions used it as a symbol of good luck. In a

synagogue at Ein Gedi, built during the Roman occupation of Judea, the floor is decorated with swastikas. In Capernaum, a synagogue built around 200AD, an ornamental frieze of the Star of David along side with the swastika adorns its walls. The general belief is that both of these symbols were a "popular ancient motif" since, even the early Christian tombs were also marked with swastikas. Christians believed that this symbol was protection from the demonic spirits of the departing souls. In the Middle Ages however, the hexagram or the Star of David regularly appeared in many churches but much less frequently in synagogues or on Jewish ritual objects. The menorah was the primary Jewish symbol until the post-Renaissance period and not the "Jewish star". Not until the 17th century did it become popular to place the Star of David on the synagogues to identify them as Jewish houses of worship.

The swastika was also popular in parts of Poland, mostly with the Górale (Highlanders). It was regularly used in their folk-art, such as weaves, carvings and needle work. The City of Zakopane, once known as a "Honeymoon Capital of Poland" and today as a primo skiing resort area, had the swastika on its town crest. Coat-of-arms of the House of Borejko in these parts, displays a large red swastika on a white shield beneath the bust of a knight in a gold crown. (It is believed, by some, that due to the prevalent use of swastika by the Górale, Nazis persecution in this area of Poland was less severe.) In Great Britain the House of Chamberlain coat-of-arms is a shield bearing 3 swastikas. Even the Russian Military Code book dating back to 1918 portrays a diamond shape and in its center a swastika, beneath a red five pointed star.

More frequent use of the swastika in Germany was noted around 1871 when many of the Germanic states or regions started to unite to form a nation. German nationalists used the swastika because it had ancient Aryan origins and represented a long Germanic/Aryan history. By the end of the 19th century the swastika was synonymous with nationalist German "volkisch" periodicals. It became an official emblem of the German Gymnasts' League. By the 20th century the swastika became an emblem for the youth movement "Wandervogel" and various units of the "Freikorps" (volunteer units). The Thule Society as well as the anti-Semitic press known as "Ostara" used it as its official emblem.

Hitler decided that his Nazi Party needed a new insignia. So, in 1920 a new flag was designed that would serve as a "symbol of our own struggle" and be "highly effective as a poster". (quotes from Mein Kampf pg.495-7) He further describes the new flag that: "in red we see the social idea of the movement, - in white the nationalistic idea, - in the swastika the mission of the struggle for the victory of the Aryan man, and, by the same token, the victory of the idea of creative work, which as such always has been and always will be anti-Semitic." On August 7, 1920 at the Salzburg Congress this flag became the official emblem of the Nazi Party. Soon after, it became the symbol of hate, violence, murder, death and anti-Semitism as well as the principal cause for many emblems and insignias to be changed world wide.

It's hard to believe that such a positive, religious symbol with a 4,000 year old history should become degraded by a madman and his followers. Buddhists and Hindus in today's society have problems when using the swastika in their religious observances. They are often humiliated, insulted and criticized by unenlightened individuals. - It's unfortunate that so many people do not know the other, positive, meaning of the swastika before the Hitler era.

The direction of the arms of the swastika was interchangeable. This can be found on ancient Chinese silk drawings. However, certain cultures differentiate between the clockwise (swastika) and the counter clockwise (sauvastika). In these cultures the swastika symbolized health and life and the sauvastika bad luck and misfortune. Due to the Nazis use of the hakenkreuz, some groups are changing the meaning by making the sauvastika the symbol of good luck. (Here we see that not only recent Polish

history, dealing with the last century, is being changed, warped or distorted, but also a 4000 year old history of a religious symbol.)

It would be interesting to see the direction of the arms on the swastika the "skin heads" are sporting. They, unknowingly, may wishing health and good life and not destruction and devastation equal only to Hitler's. □

**Music News from 3**

evening for the cast and crew, and the musicians of Filharmonia Świętokrzyska, which was founded in 1920 but only recently began to rise in prominence within Poland. Thanks to a transcendent score, stunning choreography, and unflinching unity between dancers and musicians, this production in Kielce should become a musical export very soon. □

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**Taxes from 3**

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If you have additional questions about the ideas mentioned here and/or the many other strategies available to you, they may be directed to me at 800-CPA-KROL (272-5765), or you may write to:

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