



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA
Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 64

SEPTEMBER 2013

NUMBER 9

DINNER MEETING & BUSINESS EXPO

WEDNESDAY

September 18, 2013

6:00 P.M.

Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets
Niles, Illinois

RESERVATIONS

by September 16 to

meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

or 847-823-8747

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, September 30, 7:00 P.M.
Folak's Lincoln Tavern

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Sept 18, 2013—
Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013—
"Octoberfest" Dinner Meeting
Elk's Lodge, Des Plaines

Thursday, Oct. 24, 2013—
Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
AAC Eagles Club

Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2013
Thanksgiving & Elections Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

CHICAGO SOCIETY BUSINESS EXPO

At our September meeting, the Chicago Society will showcase our brother members with its annual Business Expo. The Expo will be held on September 19 at Przybylo's White Eagle in Niles. The purpose of the Expo is to give our brother members an opportunity to promote their businesses, and to encourage our own brother members to support them! Attorneys, roofers, plumbers, real estate agents, insurance agents, doctors, musicians, electricians, and all other professions are welcome. Let your brother members know what your business is and get new referrals. If you would like to promote your business at this Expo, please contact Brother **John Cieslik** at 773-775-0331. The cost is FREE and tables will be available for marketing your materials and your business cards. Please bring a guest to that meeting. This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to showcase our organization and the talents of our members. This is also a wonderful opportunity for new members to find out what their brother members have to offer, and for them to showcase their business.



Bring a Friend!! The Business Expo is a perfect opportunity to introduce potential members to the Society. You are encouraged to invite a friend, associate or colleague to come and see what the Society has to offer. If you wish to bring a guest, he must meet the qualifications of membership, and inform Brother **Cwiakala**.

FRIENDS & CANDIDATES CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER

The Chicago Society Annual Friends & Candidates Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at the AAC Eagles Club located 5844 N. Milwaukee in Chicago. As usual, all members and their guests are welcome to join us and network, break bread and have a great evening! The very low priced ticket of \$30.00 includes open bar with premium liquor starting at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner featuring Harrington's famous corned beef with horse radish, cabbage, boiled potatoes, pumpernickel bread, and apple pie and coffee for dessert. After dinner we will have the ever popular Executive Raffle and continue to network! Please call Brother **Charles Komosa** 773-286-7123 or Brother **John Cieslik** 312-859-5404 if you would like to attend. Please make your reservations early because tickets will not be sold at the door.



CHICAGO SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Brother **Charles Komosa**, Chairman of the Chicago Society Scholarship Committee, announces that applications are now available for Chicago Society scholarships. The application is found on p. 5 of this issue of *The Forum*. It is also available, in fillable form, on our website <http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/scholarship>.

Please note that the deadline for receipt of applications and all supporting materials is **February 1, 2014**.



CHICAGO SOCIETY Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications
Ted Wiecek

editor@chicagosocietypna.org

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Visit Our Website At

www.chicagosocietypna.org

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR
MEETING RESERVATION?

Dear Brothers,

As the summer winds down with Labor Day, I hope everyone had an enjoyable and memorable summer. I would like to thank our "Chef" Brothers, **Bivins** and **Kopka**, for an outstanding Friends and Family Picnic that was held in August. With perfect weather we enjoyed the music entertainment provided by Brother **Bartoszcze**. I would especially like to thank Brothers **Matuszczak** and **Czaja** for running the raffle and children's games, as they do every year. I would like to thank all that donated prizes for the raffle. Lastly, I would like to thank our Brother Member **William Wojcik** from Laramie Deli and Bakery for donating some of the items for the BBQ and sweets. Kudos to all who make this a wonderful event for all.

As we will still enjoy the many great weather days left, there are many events remaining for all to enjoy and support. Brother **Cieslik** will be organizing our annual Chicago Society Business Expo, which will be held on September 18 at our regular monthly meeting at Pryzbylo's House of the White Eagle. Please contact Brother Cieslik by email at johncieslik@sbcglobal.net or phone at 312-859-5404 in order to have a table set up for you at the event. This is a great event to promote and advertise to brother members about your business or services.

The Night at the Races and the Friends and Candidates Corned Beef Dinner are approaching soon. Please check the calendar of events for more information.

On a final note, the Scholarship Committee presented the new application and it was passed by the board for publication.

Fraternally Yours, Mark Orwat



"A date which will live in infamy." That is how President Franklin Roosevelt described Dec. 7, 1941, when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, prompting the US to declare war on Japan and enter World War II in Asia and Europe. Poland's "day of infamy," however, was Sept. 1, 1939. On that date at 4:45 a.m., Nazi and Slovak troops attacked Poland by air, by land, and by sea at Westerplatte. On Sept. 3, 1939, Britain and France declared war on Germany, and World War II began. On September 17, sixteen days after Nazi Germany invaded Poland from the west, the Soviet Union did so from the east. The invasion ended on October 6, 1939 with the division and annexing of the whole of the Second Polish Republic by Germany and the Soviet Union. The President of Poland, Ignacy Mościcki, transferred his power and appointed Władysław Raczkiewicz President of the Republic of Poland (in exile), which was housed initially in Paris, moved to Angers, then located to London, where it remained until the return of a free and independent Poland in 1990.

Even though WWI was known as "the war to end all wars," WWI was truly a world war, fought on a number of theatres throughout the world. At the insistence of Joseph Stalin, the Yalta Conference of 1945 sanctioned the formation of a new Polish pro-Communist government in Moscow, which ignored the Polish government-in-exile based in London. Upon achieving victory in 1945, the occupying Soviet authorities organized an election which constituted nothing more than a sham and was ultimately used to claim the 'legitimacy' of Soviet hegemony over Polish affairs. The Soviet Union instituted a new communist government in Poland, similar to much of the rest of the Eastern Bloc. And Poland again lost her independence. Poland found herself under the paws of the Soviets until the fall of communism in 1990, when the independent III Republic of Poland was formed.

Due to her unfortunate geographic location, Poland has for centuries been a pawn in the face of Europe. She now enjoys a prominent place in Europe, a member of both NATO and the European Union, with the strongest economy of all countries in the EU. It is important, however, for all those of Polish descent to remember those dark days in Poland's history, and to appreciate the struggles the Poles endured to finally enjoy independence. Members, please make sure your children and grandchildren are taught the history of your and their country. We owe this to all those who so gallantly fought on all fronts for a free and independent Poland.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE





♦ The beaches closed and schools opened, signaling the end of summer. Another sign of the end of the summer is the annual Taste of Polonia at the Copernicus Center. The president of the Copernicus Foundation is Brother **Hubert Cioromski**; the chairman of Big Nick's Casino for many years is Brother **John Wojciechowski**. Members of the Society were asked to volunteer their time at the Casino this year. Lending a helping hand were Brothers **Stan Jendzejec**, **Ted Makarewicz**, **Mark Orwat**, **Tom Pawelko**, and **Ted Wiecek**. Also seen enjoying the weekend's festivities were Brothers **Rich** and wife **Maria Ciesla**, **Don** and wife **Lucille Gutowski**, **Tony Kawalkowski**, **Charlie Komosa** with his sons, **Fred Koziol**, **Darek Kozlowski**, **Marcin Krempa**, **Richard Kula**, **Mark Kupiec**, **Mark Pawlas**, **John Skaja, Jr.**, and **Les Sraga**.

♦ Brother **Ken Gill** is convalescing at Saint Benedict Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 6930 W. Touhy Avenue, Niles, IL 60714, 847-647-0003. He would greatly appreciate a visit, a card, or a phone call. We all wish him well!

♦ The Honor Flight program for veterans visiting the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. is now accepting applications from Korean War Veterans. Up to now, only World War II veterans were able to sign up for the trip.

♦ **Kristin E. Lipkowski**, daughter of Brother **Ted** and **Loretta Lipkowski**, has been awarded a full scholarship at the City University of New York together with participation in a five year doctoral program by the Graduate Center Fellowship. She has relocated to Queens, New York on August 25.

♦ Brother **Terry Przybylski** was recently inducted as Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Lafayette Council 361 at St. John Cantius in Chicago.

INDUCTED TO MEMBERSHIP

We welcome **Andrew Csoke**, sponsored by Brothers **Mark Orwat** and **Charles Komosa**, who renewed his induction as a member at our last meeting. *Witamy z powrotem!*

FACEBOOK REMOVES "HATE POLAND" PAGE

Members will recall that at our last meeting, Brother **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert** brought to the members' attention a page in Facebook "Hate Poland" and urged members and their families and friends to report that page as abusive and have it removed by Facebook. Facebook's initial response was that they did NOT find this page offensive. However, recently Facebook reported to your editor (and, I imagine, many others) that "We reviewed the page you reported for containing hate speech or symbols. Since it violated our Community Standards, we removed it. Thanks for your report. We let Hate Poland know that their page has been removed, but not who reported it." Another victory for Polonia. Thanks to all who did report this page.

The "Hate Poland" page featured a Polish flag riddled with nine or more bullet holes at its top and a man in military uniform and helmet aiming at it. Flowing violently from the back of the flag in deep red is what could reasonably have been identified as blood.

The "signature picture," also at the page's top, was another Polish flag with a red-colored "X" over it. An "X" over a graphic commonly refers to something that is either forbidden or destroyed.

Large upper case text in red over the main graphic stated "Poland Sucks."

The persons responsible for creation and management of the page were identified only as **Namax** and **Bubba**.

Facebook community standards state: "Facebook does not permit hate speech, but distinguishes between serious and humorous speech. While we encourage you to challenge ideas, institutions, events, and practices, we do

not permit individuals or groups to attack others based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability or medical condition."

CASINO DAYS SCHEDULED

Texas Hold 'em Casino Days to benefit the Chicago Society have been scheduled for the remainder of 2013. They will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 17; Tuesday, Oct. 1; Wednesday, Nov. 6; and Tuesday, Nov.

19. All will be held at Przybylo's House of the White Eagle. Volunteers are needed for these events. You don't need to know how to deal, only how to smile. Shifts are 1:30—6:30 and 6:30—midnight. If you can give a few hours of your time on any of those dates, please contact Brother **Chuck Cwiakala**.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sept. 14 & 15 Duplicate Book Sale, Polish Museum
Sept. 18 Annual Business Expo, Przybylo's
Sept. 21 "Art for Heart" Opening, Polish Museum
Oct. 24 Candidates' Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner, Eagles Club
Nov. 14 "Night at the Races," Maywood Park
Nov. 16 PAA Annual Gala, Intercontinental Chicago O'Hare
Dec. 14 Deserving Children's Christmas Party, PNA
Jan. 18, 2014 Chicago Society Inaugural Ball, Rosewood Gardens



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AUGUST SPEAKER

Our speaker at the August meeting was Lukasz Fuksa, president of the Polish American Chamber of Commerce and of the Polish American Leadership Political Action Committee (PAL-PAC). He started his talk by saying the at one time Poles were quite influential in local and national politics, but that influence has waned over the years. He feels that we Poles didn't have enough "guts" to take control over this situation when we could have. He founded PAL-PAC as a political action committee with Arie Zwieg to address this issue. He sees many Polonians not supporting each other's success and pulling one another down.

Mr. Fuksa feels there are 3 main reasons why Polonia will soon be in a position to regain this political influence.

1. The "Solidarity" wave of immigrants in the 1980s are now professionals, doctors, lawyers, businessmen. They have become assimilated in the US, and immensely proud of the Polish heritage. This generation of immigrants have formed a number of organizations to improve Polonia's position: Quo Vadis, Pangea, Connect—Inspire—Unite. PAL-PAC has also organized a Junior Board to involve the younger generation.
2. The proposed visa waiver legislation will drive businessmen to the US, and with them much talent, power, and political influence.
3. The "Polish Renaissance" which has seen remarkable economic growth in Poland, the only country in EU to show such growth, has driven a huge jump in technology in Poland. She has become the new Silicon Valley, which has also created a new pool of talented and education labor.

Mr. Fuksa encouraged all Society

members to become involved in PAL-PAC—large numbers have large influence.

POLISH TRIVIA

Within weeks after the start of World War II, then-Censor of the PNA Atty. Francis Świątlik formed a new all-Polonia federation for the purpose of gathering funds and clothing for the benefit of the suffering Polish people. What was the name of that federation? Send your response to editor@chicagosocietypna.org.

Answer to August's question: a group of five Polish folk artists in Koniaków, a village in the Beskid mountain range, specializing in lace-making, have produced what is likely to be the biggest lace tablecloth ever made. The cloth is five meters in diameter, consists of 8,000 elements, and took four months to complete, with 50 kilometers of thread used in the process.

PULASKI MONUMENT STILL STANDING

Brother John Wojciechowski recently visited the Casimir Pulaski Monument in Savannah, Georgia, a 19th-century monument located at Monterey Square on Bull Street, not far from the battlefield where Pulaski lost his life during the siege of Savannah. Due to its deteriorating condition, the monument was completely restored in 2001, with major funding from the Polish National Alliance and the Chicago Society.



ART FOR HEART

Art for Heart 2013 is proud to present Chicago's talented Polish and Polish-American artists and share their works with the community. All are invited to view the latest works by renowned contemporary Polish artists during the entire week



of September 21st. A private preview

and multi-association group networking event will be held on Wednesday, September 25th. Members of the Chicago Society are invited to this event.

Meet the artists and enjoy a night surrounded by Polish culture with music, appetizers and a cash bar on Saturday, Sept 21st from 7 to 11 p.m. at The Polish Museum of America, located at 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL. Tickets will be available in at the door for \$10. Come mingle with the artists, enjoy complimentary appetizers, a cash bar and a live DJ. All original artwork and less expensive prints will be available for sale.

NETWORKING BUSINESS MIXER

Chicago Business Club and Barrington Business Referrals Group invite you to a jointly organized Networking Event. Please join us on Thursday, September 26, 2013 at the Maggiano's in Schaumburg at 6 p.m. Enjoy an evening of great networking, light appetizers, raffle prizes and plenty of new, quality business connections. Bring lots of business cards. RSVP online and save on the save on the registration fee. \$15 online, \$20 walk-ins. More information at <http://www.ChicagoBusinessClub.com> or 224-717-9891.



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CHICAGO SOCIETY, PNA

2014 SCHOLARSHIP

The Chicago Society, PNA is pleased to announce the availability of scholarships to qualified college students for 2014.

Eligibility:

Applicant must:

- be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident with at least one parent of Polish descent;
- be a full-time undergraduate student who has completed at least one term (semester, quarter);
- be currently enrolled in an accredited 4-year college or university;
- have a minimum GPA of 3.00 (A=4.00) as supported by an official transcript.

Award Amount:

Three scholarships will be awarded in substantial amounts not to exceed \$6,000 total. Applicants who have been previously awarded a Chicago Society scholarship may re-apply each year.

Application requirements and procedure:

- Complete the Personal Information section below;
- Submit an essay on the topic: **"What have I done, and what can I further do, to raise my awareness of Poland, her culture, heritage, and traditions?"**
- Submit a personal statement stating why you are applying for support. You may use the statements below to guide your statement. Feel free to incorporate your responses in a way that will help the Scholarship Committee better understand you and your strengths.
 - How your life experiences shaped your decision to go to college;
 - Your commitment to academics as well as to your community, and your involvement in both school and community activities;
 - Your goals, ambitions, and enthusiasm for your chosen career field;
 - How receiving this scholarship will support your decision to obtain an education and further your academic goals.

Note: Both of the essays above should be one to three pages long, submitted in standard essay format: 8½" x 11", 12 pt. font, double spaced. Do NOT include your name or any other identifying information on either essay.

- Submit an official transcript of your academic record to the address below.
- Submit completed application and all supporting documents by email to scholarship@chicagosocietypna.org with "CS Scholarship Application" and your last name in the subject; or mail to:

Chicago Society, PNA
ATTN: Scholarship Chairman
6348 N. Milwaukee Ave. #360
Chicago, IL 60646

- Deadline for receipt of all materials: **February 1, 2014.**

Personal Information *Note: this application is also available online at chicagosocietypna.org/scholarship*

Name		Gender M <input type="radio"/> F <input type="radio"/>	
Mailing address		City, State, Zip	
Home phone	Mobile phone	Email	
Date of birth	Place of birth	Are you a US citizen or permanent resident??	
Father's name and place of birth		Mother's maiden name and place of birth	
College or University	Major	Cum. GPA	Anticipated graduation date

Statement of Assurances and Release:

By signing and submitted this application, I certify that all the information reported is complete and accurate. Providing false or incomplete information will result in immediate dismissal of this application. I agree that this application and all materials contained herein become the property of the Chicago Society, PNA and, together with my photograph, may be used at its discretion.

Applicant's signature

Date

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

The Chicago Society would like to extend to the following brother members, who are celebrating their birthday in September, a warm wish of *Sto Lat!*

- 3 Chester Klos
Edward Matuga
- 10 John Teschky
Richard Zabelski
- 11 Ronald Osioł
- 12 James Pieczonka
- 13 Paul Posch
- 15 Marian Skawski
- 18 Warren Dulski
Daniel Mateja
- 19 Andrew Batorski
Walter Zarnecki
- 20 Mark Kaszubski
- 23 David Uting
- 25 Kenneth Walczak
Dan Zolkowski
- 28 Richard M. Wiermanski
- 29 Chester Lizak
- 29 Andrew Pawlowski

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following brother members, who are celebrating the anniversary of their induction in September.

Walter Piecewicz	1983	30Years
George Batorski	1988	25Years
Ray Sikora	2008	5Years

RULES FOR VOTING AND RUNNING FOR OFFICE IF NOT SLATED

The Nominating Committee shall select at least one candidate for each elective position who shall be required to sign an acceptance of nomination. At the October meeting, the chairman of the Nominating Committee will announce the slate of candidates that has been selected. Any member may run against a slated candidate for a particular office. The rules and procedures for doing such are stated in the Constitution, Article VII: Election of Officers and Directors.

At the regular meeting in October the Nominating Committee shall accept for nomination such additional lists of candidates for the respective offices as may

be submitted by the petitions of ten or more members, provided however that the signed acceptance of each candidate is attached to each such petition. The adjournment of the meeting shall close the nominations in the absence of a motion for that purpose. Immediately thereafter, the nominating committee shall submit a list containing all of the names of the candidates to the Recording Secretary who shall cause the publicizing of such list to all members in good standing at least ten days prior to the date of the November election meeting.

The President shall appoint five Judges of Election, if necessary, who shall prepare a ballot, have charge of the polls of election, canvass the votes and certify the results to the Recording Secretary. Only members in good standing shall be eligible to be elected, to sign petitions or to vote. No member admitted to membership in the Society within five days of election shall be eligible to vote at the election.

NEWS BRIEFS

Prepared and Distributed by the
Polonia Media Network

Bellona Publishing House in Warsaw has just published the Polish language translation of "The Katyn Order" ["*Rozkaz Katyński*"] by Douglas Jacobson.

There are a few thousand historic castles, palaces or manor houses currently on sale in Poland, according to Adam Urbul, head of the Historic Real Estate Agency in Silesia, the biggest Polish agent of old or historic buildings. The majority of them are located in the Mazowieckie, Malopolskie and Lower Silesia voivodships [counties or provinces]. Urbul says most of the buyers purchase historic buildings for their own use but there is also a large group of people who treat them as a business enterprise.

Business conditions in the Polish manufacturing sector improved for the first time in over a year at the start of the third quarter of 2013, according to data released by HSBC and Markit on August 1. The headline HSBC Poland Manufacturing purchasing manager's index (PMI) measures manufacturing performance using a

single-figure indicator based on monthly surveys of private companies. The report by HSBC and Markit said the latest PMI of 51.1 "indicated an overall improvement in business conditions, ending a sequence of deterioration that stretched back to April 2012."

Economy Minister Janusz Piechocinski signaled in August that several automotive industry groups are mulling new investments in Poland. According to information obtained by *Puls Biznesu* [Business Pulse], two of those companies could be Michelin and General Motors. However, Poland will have to compete with Spain, France, Germany, Mexico and Hungary, which are also being considered as possible locations for the investments. According to the daily newspaper, one of the new projects, a car engine manufacturing plant, could be established in Tychy. The investment would be worth \$465 million and create 200 new jobs.

In his speech on Polish Army Day, celebrated on August 15, President Bronisław Komorowski said that Poland should reduce its involvement in foreign military missions and concentrate more on modernizing its army.



HUBERT J. CIOROMSKI
President

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LINCOLN PARK
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Chicago, IL 60614

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FOLKLORE OF POLAND

The folklore of Poland is still alive and thriving. As reported in an earlier article this is especially true in the *Podhale* region, but one can find examples of living folklore throughout the country. Next time you visit Poland, I encourage anyone who is interested in the beauty and vitality of Poland's folklore and heritage to visit any number of places where one can experience this culture firsthand. An excellent starting point in any location is the *Wojewódski Dom Kultury* (District House of Culture). There one can find schedules of concerts, performances, exhibitions and other attractions in the area. Take some time to travel out to the towns and villages, especially on a holiday, to see this folklore "in action."



Folk art is an essential piece of Polish national identity. Folk art is often applied art, and includes sculpture, painting, embroidery (left), lace, ceramics, pottery, and wood carving. Folk art evolved out of a combination of practical need and artistic impulse and reflects the everyday lives of those who create it. Rural Poland is the real home of

the country's folk art, but it is also to be found in the cities, both in the form of tourist souvenirs and in museum collections, and it has been an important medium for the expression of a distinctively Polish culture through the centuries.

Zakopane, the famous ski resort at the foot of the Tatra Mountains, is perhaps the most important town in Poland for folk art. This is all thanks to Stanisław Witkiewicz, a painter, architect and art theorist who created the "Zakopane Style" of ornate wooden architecture in the town. He attempted to forge an artistic identity for Poland in the late nineteenth century (at a time when it was partitioned between rival countries and didn't actually exist as a nation), building on and preserving the strong folk traditions of the *górale* people of the Tatras and the artistic heritage of the surrounding Podhale region. The Museum of the Zakopane Style (Muzeum Styłu Zakopiańskiego) is housed in the first building Witkiewicz constructed in the new style and contains a wealth of folk art characteristic of the region.



There are a number of skansens located throughout Poland. These open air museums depict the folk culture of the region. These are places that are designed to bring the history and daily life of people from the past to the present. The Polish open-air museums showcase original buildings, farms, log cabins, barns, windmills, forges, churches, Orthodox churches. Most are reconstructions of entire villages, with great attention to detail in both the exterior and interior of the huts, and workshops with tools, costumes and other elements of folklore. Open-air museums are not dead, boring museums, where viewers passively watch the experience. In many, one will find vibrant life throughout the year.



Visitors can not only view the folk art, such as paintings on glass, embroidery and lace, gorgeous pottery, colorful pitchers and bowls, carved wooden saints, but also take part in the daily work of the people who lived centuries ago. Some of the most famous and most-visited skansens in Poland are in Bispukin (above left) near Gniezno, the oldest settlement in Poland; Sanok in the Bieszczady; Kluki (right) in Kaszuby. All told, there are over 50 skansens located throughout Poland.



Lovers of folk painting will enjoy Zalipie, a village northwest of Tarnów in southeastern Poland, known for a local custom of painting the cottages with decorative motifs. Zalipie (left) has been known as a center for folk painting for more than a century. Today about 20 such houses can be seen in Zalipie itself, with more in the neighboring villages.



Another must-see is Koniaków, known for its intricate lace-making. The tradition of lace-making in Koniaków is more than 150 years old. Koniaków laces are handmade by crocheting cotton thread, using motifs inspired by nature. Lace motifs are worked separately, then connected to form larger pieces. (See August's trivia question.)

Examples of decoration art can be found all over Poland. The most famous is certainly the art of Łowicz, known for its intricate *wycinanki* (paper cut-outs), embroidery, and wood sculptures.

After seeing the richness of Poland's folk art traditions, you may want to take a little piece of this culture home with you, but buying folk art can be a tricky business since inferior quality items have flooded the market, targeted at unwary tourists. But if you are looking for a genuine piece of folk art at a good price it pays to do some research in advance. Organizations such as CEPELIA – the Polish Art and Handicraft Foundation – can advise on regional styles and authentic producers, and they even sell authentic Polish folk art to wholesalers online. Wherever in Poland you happen to be staying, smaller, family-run shops and workshops away from the urban centers are usually happy to discuss their work with you and educate you in the region's artistic heritage. In folk art lies the spirit of Poland, so be sure to make a discovery of this cultural tradition part of your trip!



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