

**Poles at Jamestown Bookmarks**

By: *Jo Louise Winters*

At the suggestion of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), Dr. Andrzej Prończuk, President of the Polish Cultural Foundation, Inc. of Boston, an Affiliate of the ACPC, has designed and produced bookmarks in Polish and English commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Poles arriving in America at the Jamestown Settlement in VA. Under Dr. Prończuk's leadership the Foundation has been highly successful in producing and distributing thousands of bookmarks relating to Poland and Polish people over the past 15 years.

These plasticized colorful bookmarks present not only basic information about the arrival and activities of the first Poles at Jamestown, but also stress the facts that Poles have provided significant contributions to America for 400 years. Now as Polonians throughout the United States are preparing local events to celebrate this 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and/or joining the American Council for Polish Culture at its 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention (Aug. 6-10) in Williamsburg VA or the Polish American Congress at Jamestown (Commemoration on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>) these bookmarks are especially relevant.

The bookmarks are an attractive and durable tool that can be used to promote the Jamestown anniversary and the contributions of Poles to America. Since knowledge about the Polish contributions to American life among Americans and even among Polonians is limited, it is important that all Polonia organizations and individuals join in the efforts to share that knowledge. It is hoped that you will see that distributing this bookmark among your members, friends and schoolchildren can be a useful and far-reaching effort towards achieving that goal. These markers are available in either Polish or English language.

While costs for most products in the U.S. have been rising steeply, Dr. Prończuk has managed judiciously to cut in half the cost of producing these wonderful bookmarks, which teachers and schoolchildren in particular find fascinating. To cover the costs of production and further increase distribution, the Polish Cultural Foundation offers these bookmarks at twenty-five cents each. It is even happy to provide "bonus" bookmarks (10% extra) for orders of 100 or more. Please add \$5 for postage, indicate Polish (limited supply remaining!) or English version, and make your check payable to the Polish Cultural Foundation, Inc. with the notation "Jamestown Bookmark" and mail to:

Dr. Andrzej Prończuk, President Polish Cultural Foundation, Inc. 15 Marshall Rd. Milton, MA 02186

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Prończuk (after 6:00 p.m.) at (617) 696-9009 or e-mail [andrzejpronczuk@aol.com](mailto:andrzejpronczuk@aol.com). □



**Ask Our Man in Warsaw**

KINDLY AIRMAIL ALL POLISH-RELATED QUERIES TO:

**Robert Strybel**  
ul. Kaniowska 24  
01-529 Warsaw, Poland  
or e-mail to: [strybel@vp.pl](mailto:strybel@vp.pl)

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**Q:** Our organization, the Polish Gift of Life, has brought Polish kids to the US for emergency surgery and supplied Polish hospitals with medical equipment. We are also looking to supply orphanages in Poland with clothing, bedding, baby needs, toys and school supplies and hope you can advise us on this.

JADWIGA GAPIŃSKI, Rowedale, NY,  
e-mail: [www.polishgiftoflife.org](http://www.polishgiftoflife.org)

**A:** A most commendable cause! Here are a few care institutions extremely worth of Polish-American assistance:

1. Home for the Blind in Laski, Poland, operated by the Franciscan Sister Servants of the Cross; Contact: Sister Jana Maria Żak, [s.jm@poczta.fm](mailto:s.jm@poczta.fm); Donation and Bequest Department (Dział Darów): Elżbieta Morawska-Sawa; tel. (48-22) 752 32 23; [dary@laski.edu.pl](mailto:dary@laski.edu.pl)

Postal address: Dom dla Niewidomych w Laskach, ul. Brzozowa 75. 05-080 Izabelin, Poland  
tel. (48 22)752-31-22

2. Catholic Orphanage Operated by the Franciscan Sisters of the Family of Mary (for children - boys and girls - aged 3-20)  
Dom Dziecka Sióstr Rodziny Maryi, ul. Wąsowska 48, 03-005 Warszawa - Białoleka Dworska; tel. (48-22) 811-04-77

3. Catholic orphanage operated by the Franciscan Sisters of the Family of Mary (for children - boys and girls - aged 3-20)  
Dom Dziecka Sióstr Rodziny Maryi, ul. Klasyków 52/54, 03-163 Pludy, Poland  
tel. (+48-22) 811 1541;  
[zsfrmdyrplu@poczta.onet.pl](mailto:zsfrmdyrplu@poczta.onet.pl)

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**Don't chuck "Busia" into the dumpster!**

By: *Robert Strybel*,  
Polish/Polonian Affairs Writer

Often without knowing it, we come face to face with history, our own ancestral annals, when an elderly family member goes on to his or her reward. In addition to the property left behind by loved ones such as homes, furnishings and cars, they often leave a legacy of family souvenirs, keepsakes and mementoes. To some this may be little more than useless clutter, a bunch of junk to be dumped or incinerated as soon as possible. However, before that happens, one thing should be considered. Our ancestor must have considered these things valuable and priceless if he or she decided to hang on to them all these years. Doesn't their wanton destruction amount to chucking "Busia" (granny) into the dumpster?

Unfortunately, most Polish Americans begin taking an interest in their ancestral roots a bit too late in life when elderly family members are no longer around to ask about things. That "junk" may therefore be one of their last remaining links to their family history. Every effort should therefore be made to safeguard whatever possible for posterity. These may include such keepsakes as Old World documents (baptismal/birth certificates, marriage certificates, passports and steamship-ticket stubs), US naturalization papers, yellowed Old Country letters, funeral cards, Polonian jubilee publications, newspaper cuttings, etc. If possible, an oral narration by the oldest living family member can be recorded or written down for future reference.

Even if the younger set shows little interest in family heritage at present, some day some grandchild or great-grandchild may suddenly start wondering about his or

her family roots. Maybe a teacher will assign ancestral history or a family tree as an essay topic or class project. If that occurs, the child will have something to fall back upon. But if these keepsakes are not safeguarded, they will be lost forever.

Other than saving family keepsakes, a good place to start exploring your ancestral ties is your Polish name itself. For a custom-researched analysis of the meaning and derivation of your surname, how many people use it, where they live and whether a coat of arms goes with it, you may send a \$15 check (adding \$5 for each additional surname) to the author: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland. To help you get started you will also receive a contact list of genealogical leads, institutions, organizations, websites and other resources which many Polish-American root-tracers have found extremely helpful.

Also worth recommending is Rosemary Chorzempa's book "Polish Roots". It provides a good background for those getting started in genealogical exploration with plenty of hints, step-by-step instructions and valuable leads to follow up on. It is available online at [www.thisispolish.com](http://www.thisispolish.com) or [www.polishartcenter.com](http://www.polishartcenter.com) The book is also found at Polish-American bookshops, import and specialty shops. □

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