


[Family History](#)
[Czartoryski Museum](#)
[Lady With an Ermine](#)
[Bookstore](#)
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The Founding of The Dynasty

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The Princes Czartoryski ruled the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 13th century.

In 1386 Grand Duke Jogaila married a Polish princess and became King Wladyslaw Jagiello, thereby founding the Royal Dynasty of the Jagellonian which was to rule for two centuries. The junior branch of the family came to be known by a name deriving from the main Czartorysk seat in Volhynia.

At around the end of the 17th Century the family's royal ambitions were revived by Prince Kazimierz Czartoryski (1674-1741), who was Duke of Klewan and Zukow, and Castellan of Wilno. Intelligent, highly educated and ambitious, in 1693 Kazimierz marries Isabella Morsztyn, daughter of the Grand Treasurer of Poland. Thus begins the "*Familia*" dynasty carried on by Kazimierz and Isabella's four children: Mikhal, August, Konstancja and Teodor.

Mikhal (1696-1777) became Chancellor of Lithuania and his daughter Antonina married Jan Jerzy Flemming, the wealthy treasurer of Lithuania. The couple's only daughter Izabella founded the museum.

August (1697-1782), Mikhal's younger brother, was the financial genius of the "*Familia*". He became the Palatine of Ruthenia and married Sofia Sienawska, who was heiress to two fabulous fortunes and whose dowry included two main family residences at Pulawy and Wilanow. Their son, Adam Kazimierz, who married their niece Isabella, was to become the hope of the dynasty.

Konstancja meanwhile married the brilliant general Stanislaw Poniatowski, and Teodor went into the church, in 1720 becoming bishop of Poznan.


Despite their different paths, the four men in the family worked as a perfect team; Michal as the strategic planner, August the banker, Teodor the ecclesiastic power, and Poniatowski the soldier. By 1750 they formed the most powerful family in Poland and using Russia's support, they planned to elevate either Adam Kazimierz Czartoryski or his cousin Stanislaw Poniatowski to the throne.

In the end it was Poniatowski, who had strong backing from Russia and was at one time the official lover of the future Empress Catherine the Great, who was crowned King Stanislaw II Augustus of Poland in 1764.

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Princess Izabela Czartoryska 1746 - 1835

- 1746 Birth of Countess Izabela Fleming, a rich heiress.
- 1761 Wedding to Prince Adam Kazimierz Czartoryski, they have 2 boys and 3 girls.
- 1772 In Paris she meets Benjamin Franklin, J.J. Rousseau and Voltaire, who bring at the time new ideas to the old order.
- 1775 Transforms the Czartoryski Palace at Pulawy, into an intellectual and political meeting place.
- 1784 Joins "The Patriotic Party"
- 1794 Warsaw insurrection
- 1795 Catherine of Russia takes 2 boys to St. Petersburg, as political hostages.
- 1796 Rebuilds the ruined Palace of Pulawy, and starts the Museum. First objects are Turkish trophies from the siege of Vienna in 1683. Also historical objects, from Polish families and royal treasures.
- 1797 Builds Temple of Sybil in Pulawy by architect Aigner her Motto "The past to the Future".
- 1798 Prince Adam Jerzy, acquires in Italy Leonardo da Vinci "Lady with an Ermine" and portrait of "A Young Man" by Raphael the latter one, property of the Giustiniani Family.
- 1801 Opens her first museum called "The Gothic House" or "The Temple of Memory". It contains, objects with sentimental significance on the glories and miseries of human life.
- 1805 Two granite lions, donated by the Tsar Alexander I after his visit to Pulawy, still at the entrance of the Temple of Sybil.
- 1830 Polish insurrection. Princess Izabela evacuates all the objects and leaves for country property Sieniawa, 160 kilometers north east of Krakow.
- 1835 Dies in Sieniawa, buried in the family crypt.

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Prince Adam Kazimierz Czartoryski 1734-1823


- 1734 Prince Adam Kazimierz is born, when his father Prince August (1697-1782) was Palatine of Ruthenia and his mother Zofia Sieniawska an heiress to two enormous fortunes. He was brought up to be the future ruler of Poland and was carefully educated.
- 1761 He marries Izabella Flemming an extremely wealthy heiress and ensures the Family finances for future generations.
- 1764 Prince Adam Kazimierz's cousin Prince Stanislaw Poniatowski is chosen by Catherine II of Russia to be crowned King of Poland under the name of King Stanislaw Augustus II.
- 1765 Despite failing to become head of the nation, Prince Adam Kazimierz was active in "The Sejm" - the Polish Parliament. He also commands the cadet corps and, being an intellectual, he organizes the National Education. But his books are the main interest in life; he studies and speaks many languages and even corresponds in Sanskrit with the great orientalist Sir William Jones.
- 1784 Prince Adam Kazimierz supports "The Patriotic Party" and prepares the new progressive constitution, which was passed in 1791.
- 1794 The Russian Army crushes the new regime and Prince Adam Kazimierz's sons are taken as hostages to the Court of Catherine the Great in St. Petersburg.
- 1815 After the Congress of Vienna, Prince Adam Kazimierz son and Political heir Prince Adam Jerzy takes over as head of the Czartoryski Family, and Prince Adam Kazimierz retires and dedicates the rest of his life to his books.
- 1823 Prince Adam Kazimierz dies and is buried at the Family crypt in Sieniawa.

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Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski 1770-1861

- 1770 Prince Adam Jerzy is born.
- 1795 After the Warsaw insurrection, and the political involvement of his parents, he is taken hostage with his brother Kostanty to St. Petersburg. He falls in love with the Grand Duke Alexander's wife Elizabeta Alekseyevna during his stays and fathers a girl.
- 1798 Tsar Paul sends Adam Jerzy to Italy as Russian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sardinia. Visits Rome & Florence, corresponds with his mother and buys Leonardo's "Lady with an Ermine" and Raphael's "Portrait of a Young Man". He also starts excavation work at the Roman Forum.
- 1804 Due to his friendship with Tsar Alexander I he was nominated Minister of Foreign Affairs for nearly Twenty years.
- 1815 Congress of Vienna sanctions the partition of Poland. Prince Adam Jerzy helps draft the constitution of the New Kingdom of Poland.
- 1817 Marries Princess Anna Sapieha.
- 1825 The political climate in Poland deteriorates after ascension of Tsar Alexander's brother Nicolas I.
- 1830 Warsaw revolution. Prince Adam Jerzy acclaimed as head of the nation. Russian troops march on Warsaw and Pulawy. Prince Adam Jerzy condemned to death. All properties confiscated with the exception of Sieniawa, which was under the Austrian protectorate. Prince Adam Jerzy flees across Europe to Paris, the capital of the only great power sympathetic to Poland. Opens offices in London and Istanbul. Leaves family finances with his wife and mother-in-law, who are both shrewd investors.
- 1843 Buys Hotel Lambert, as his residence in Paris built in 1642 by Louis le Vau and restores it with Delacroix. The Hotel Lambert is the Court to all Polish Royalists. He also creates many institutions: Polish Library, Historical Society, and Institute for Young Ladies, and the School for Young Men. Only the Library survives to this day. It becomes the greatest center of Polish Life both Political, Cultural, and Social outside Poland. Some of its famous patrons are Chopin, Krasinski, Lamartine, Sand, Balzac, Berlioz, Liszt. Chopin composes "La Polonaise" for the Polish ball held yearly.
- 1848 Establishes "Adampol" outside Istanbul refuge for Polish deserters from the Russian Army.
- 1850 Brings to Paris most objects hidden in Poland: Raphael, Leonardo and the Rembrandt walled for over eight years, in the cellars of Sieniawa. Also some important books and manuscripts, and national artifacts, which started Izabela's Museum.
- 1861 Dies in Paris at the age of 91 years, and is buried in family property crypt in Sieniawa.

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Prince Wladyslaw Czartoryski 1828-1894

- 1828 Birth of Prince Wladyslaw.
- 1855 Younger son but political heir to his father, and artistic heir to his Grandmother Izabela. Marries Maria Amparo Countess of Vista Alegre, daughter of Queen Cristina of Spain, by morganatic relation to the Duke of Riancares. The couple becomes friends with Emperor Napoleon III and Empress Eugenia de Montijo, due to Spanish origin of both Ladies.
- 1864 Uprising against Russia collapses. Prince Wladyslaw changes his interest from political to collecting.
- 1865 Exposition des Arts Decoratifs in Paris. The Czartoryski Collection exhibited in the "Polish Room"
- 1870 French defeat in the Franco-Prussian War.
- 1871 Street fighting in Paris between "The Communards" and the French Army. Prince Wladyslaw leaves Paris for London, taking few of the most precious pieces and hiding the rest in the cellars of the Hotel Lambert, used now as a Communard stronghold.
- 1872 Marries his second wife Princess Marguerite Orleans, granddaughter of King Louis-Phillippe of France
- 1874 Returns to Poland. The City of Krakow offers him the Old Arsenal, to which he adds a many of the adjoining buildings.
- 1876 Work starts at the museum and adjoining buildings, part of which is converted into a residence for Prince Wladyslaw and Princess Marguerite
- 1878 Prince Wladyslaw opens the museum as it is seen today, donating some objects to the Polish Library in Paris and also other archeological artifacts to the Jagellonian University, (in 1871, he had also donated objects to the Polish Museum in Rappeswil, Switzerland). At the same time after dividing the family collection with his sister Princess Izabela he keeps on adding new acquisitions to newly created Czartoryski Museum in Krakow. At the "Grande Exposition Universelle" many objects are exhibited along with "The Famous Polonaise Carpet"
- 1894 Dies in Paris, and is buried at the Sienlawa Family crypt.


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Prince Adam Ludwik Czartoryski 1872-1937

- 1872 Born in Paris.
- 1894 Prince Adam Ludwik a model citizen takes over after his father's death as head of the family.
- 1897 Emperor Francis Joseph signed the act setting up Sienlawa Ordynacja property. Capital assets were estimated at 4.5 million Austrian Crowns, which did not include the Collections.
- 1899 The Goluchow estate is left to Prince Adam Ludwik and Prince Witold his brother by their aunt Izabela Dzalynska. Prince Adam Ludwik cared for the two Museums. He also aquires many Greek objects during his travel to Japan.
- 1901 Marries Countess Maria Ludwika Krasinska. They have 3 Boys and 4 Girls.
- 1902 His 18 years old wife takes over the direction of affairs with tremendous determlnation being a great helress in her own right.
- 1911 Younger brother Prince Witold dies leaving all his inheritance to Prince Adam Ludwik.
- 1914 Prince Adam Ludwik is called up to the Austrian Army, and Princess Maria Ludwika takes over the Museum. Thanks to Royal Saxon Family connections, she sends over to Dresden the most valuable objects. In total 52 paintings, 12 carpets, 35 folders of prints and drawings as well as the Leonardo, Raphael, and Rembrandt. Great public interest although the collection was open to the public two days a week.
- 1918 Dr. Hans Posse of the direction of the royal collections fearful of the unrest in Poland is unwilling to give back the collection to the owner.
- 1920 After two years of negotiation recovery of all objects to the Family Museum in Krakow.
- 1921 Treaty of Riga provides the return of all looted or confiscated objects during tzarisim due to bolshevik revolution.
- 1931 Return of large number of important books, archives and objects taken from Pulawy in 1831. Unfortunately most of it is placed in various national depositories. The Czartoryski Museum welcomes more than 12,000 visitors a year.
- 1937 Prince Adam Ludwik dies of a lung infection and is buried at the Family crypt in Sieniawa.

Photo Gallery : 1 2 3 4

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Prince Agustyn Joseph Czartoryski Born 1907-1946

1907 Born in Warsaw.

1937 Takes over the running of the Family Museum and properties. Marries Princess Dolores de Borbon y Orleans, daughter of The Infant Don Carlos de Borbon and Princess Luisa D'Orleans.

1939 Due to the prospect of war The Museum prepares 16 cases with the most precious objects to be transported to Sieniawa Palace and walled up. The rest of the items are carried down to the Museum cellars, but in September as the bombs fall on Krakow Prince Agustyn and Princess Dolores already pregnant decide to leave Sieniawa for a better refuge. On the 18th of September German troops find the cases and loot for small tradable objects. The Leonardo and the other pictures are not damaged.

After the Germans move on Prince Agustyn removes all the treasures to his cousin's estate in Pelkinie saving them from the Russian army, but the Gestapo traces all objects and removes all important cases from their hiding places and soon after Prince Agustyn and Princess Dolores are picked up by the Gestapo and put under arrest. After heavy negotiation and thanks to their Royal Italian and Spanish connections they are deported and manage to reach Spain before the end of 1939.

1940 Prince Adam Karol Czartoryski is born in Seville, Spain.

1945 Prince Ludwik Piotr second son is born in Seville.


1946 Death of Prince Agustyn and newborn. They are both buried in the Crypt of Silesian Church in Seville, Spain.

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Prince Adam Karol Czartoryski 1940-

- 1940 Born in Seville Spain, in exile because the political changes in Poland, and following the death of his father in 1946, Prince Adam Karol is educated first in Spain and then in England and remains outside Poland until 1989.
- 1965 Professor Marek Rostworowski becomes director of the Czartoryski Collection, and some time after Professor Rostworowski and Prince Adam Karol meet in London.
- 1975 His first cousin becomes King Juan Carlos I, King of Spain.
- 1977 He marries Nora de Picciotto in London on the 25th of January and has a daughter, Princess Tamara Laura born on the 23rd of April 1978.
- 1982 Due to his interest and knowledge in Martial Arts, he is elected vice- President of both the World Karate Federation and the European Karate Union.
- 1989 After the fall of the Iron Curtain, a new life starts for Prince Adam Karol in Poland.
- 1991 Professor Marek Rostworowski becomes Minister of Culture. The High Court of the Nation returns to Prince Adam Karol the Museum and Library with all its contents.
- He creates the Princes Czartoryski Foundation to run, organize, and administer the new life of the Collection, since his return many objects including the star "The Lady with an Ermine" have traveled around the world to represent the rich cultural past and history of Poland. In recognition for this he was decorated with the cross of knight commander of the order of Polonia Restituta by the President of the Polish Republic.
- 1992 For the "Circa 1492" exhibition in Washington Prince Adam Karol represents for the first time both the Foundation and the Polish Nation. In the same year, he is involved and responsible of the Polish Pavilion during the Universal EXPO in Seville, Spain.
- 1996 His mother, Princess Dolores dies in Madrid.
- 2000 He marries Josette Calil in London on the 12th of December.

History of The Czartoryski Museum

 Print this page



THE BEGINNING OF A DREAM

The Czartoryski Museum was founded by in 1796 by Princess Izabela Czartoryska to preserve the Polish heritage in keeping with the Princess' motto: "The Past to the Future". The first objects in the so-called "Temple of Memory" were trophies commemorating the victory against the Turks at the siege of Vienna in 1683. The Museum also features historical artefacts from the looted treasures of the Wawel Cathedral, the Royal Castle and other objects donated by Polish Families. Izabela also bought the treasures of the Dukes of Brabant which included his books, which were to be a particular highlight of the collection. Influenced by the Romantic artistic movement, she also acquired objects of sentimental significance that represented the glory and misery of human life. Among these were Shakespeare's chair, fragments from the grave of Romeo and Juliet, ashes of El Cid and Ximena from the Cathedral of Burgos, and relics from Abelard and Heloise, and Petrarch and Laura.

A MOVE TO PARIS

In 1798, Izabela's son, Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski, travelled to Italy and acquired "The Lady with an Ermine" by Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael's "Portrait of A Young Man", and many Roman antiquities. However, Prince Adam Jerzy was always more a politician than an art-collector. He was condemned to death by the Russians after the 1830 insurrection and forced to flee across Europe. He established himself in Paris, and in 1843 bought The Hotel Lambert which became the Living Museum of Poland. All the objects from the first museum were displayed in Paris.

THE RETURN HOME

Upon Prince Adam Jerzy's death, his younger son, Prince Wladyslaw, took over the museum. A born collector, he and his sister, Princess Isabella Dzialynska, expanded the collection to include: the Polonaise carpet, Etruscan and Greek vases, Roman and Egyptian antiquities as well as arms and armours, and Limoges enamels. At the 1865 Exposition des Arts Decoratifs in Paris, Wladyslaw created a Polish room to exhibit the famous carpet and part of his collection.

In 1871, after the French defeat in the Franco-Prussian War, Prince Wladyslaw packed or hid all of the artefacts and fled. In 1874, the city of Krakow offered him the arsenal in the Old Wall as a museum, which he called upon Violet-le-Duc to renovate, who in turn delegated the project to his son-in-law Maurice Ouradou. In 1878, one hundred years after Princess Izabela's set up her museum in Pulawy, the new museum, as it is seen today, was opened. For nearly twenty years until his death in 1894, Prince Wladyslaw set about adding to the collection.

THE EXPANSION OF THE ESTATE

Prince Adam Ludwik, then carried on the work of his father, Prince Wladyslaw, and in 1897 he takes over the Sieniawa Ordynacja property with the Emperor Francis-Joseph. At that point his capital assets were estimated at 4.5 million Austrian Crowns, not including the Collections. In 1899, Adam Ludwik's aunt Izabela Dzialynska bequeathed The Goluchow Estate, with all the collections that she had bought with her beloved brother Wladyslaw, to her two nephews. Prince Adam Ludwik cared for the two Museums.

He then travelled to Japan and acquired the vases and bronzes still displayed today at the Goluchow Castle. In 1914, he was called up to the Austrian Army and his wife Princess Maria Ludwika took over the Museum and took most of the important artefacts to Dresden because of her connections with the Royal Saxon Family. Although at the end of the war the Czartoryskis encountered resistance to bringing the collection back in Poland, the collection is finally restored to the museum in Krakow in 1920.

DISRUPTED BY WAR

In 1937, after Prince Adam Ludwik's death, his son Prince Agustyn, takes over as head of the Family. He married Princess Dolores Victoria Maria de las Mercedes de Borbon y Orleans and spent most of his time in Poland. Then, in August 1939, Europe is thrown into turmoil, and the museum is forced to prepare for war. Sixteen cases packed with the most precious objects are transported and walled in Sieniawa, while the rest of the collection is carried down to the cellars of the museum,

where unfortunately the Germans find the cases and loot the tradable objects. Luckily although the Leonardo and other pictures are roughly handled, they are not damaged.

On September 22, 1939, Prince Agustyn removed what remained of the treasures and took them to his cousin's property in Pewkinie. However, soon afterwards the Gestapo finds the cases and takes them back to Krakow though not to the museum. On January 25, 1940, the final selections of the 85 most important items from the Museum are sent to Dresden where Dr. Posse, Hitler's plenipotentiary, decides that all objects are to be part of the Fuhrer's own Collection at Linz. From that moment the museum, whose curator was to die in a concentration camp, is closed to the public.

In 1945, Dr. Hans Frank, German governor of Poland and personal friend of Hitler brought the paintings from Berlin for his own use at the Wawel Castle. But when the Germans evacuate Krakow in January, he takes the paintings with him to Silesia and then to his own villa in Neuhaus. The Americans arrest Frank on May 4, and the Polish representative at the Allies Commission for the Retrieval of Works of Art claimed the stolen paintings on behalf of the Czartoryski Museum. However, **the Raphael and 843 other artefacts are missing from the collection.**

A LONG AWAITED RETURN

When the Iron Curtain is drawn on Poland, the museum is reopened and run by the communist government. Although the economical situation is desperate, it survived thanks largely to the work of Professor Marek Rostworowski who dedicated his life to the collection. In 1991, the High Court of the Nation returned the Museum to its rightful owner, Prince Adam Karol Czartoryski, along with the library housed in a nearby buildings.

IZABELA'S VISION LIVES ON

Today the Museum is administered by the Princes Czartoryski Foundation set up by Prince Adam Karol in 1991. The Museum has organized exhibitions in Italy (Rome-Milan-Florence), Sweden (Malmo- Stockholm), Turkey (Istanbul), and Japan (Kyoto-Nagoya-Yokohama). In the fall of 2002, "The Lady With An Ermine" was featured at the Milwaukee Art Museum's tribute to the splendour of Poland. The portrait and other items from the Collection also went on to Houston and San Francisco throughout 2003.


LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

Three important objects were found and recuperated for the museum:

1. The "Polonaise" carpet was found at Christies auction house in London on behalf of an Australian seller - it was recuperated with help from the Polish government after 5 years of legal battles, and on the 23rd of September 1997 finally returns to the Museum.
2. An Islamic textile important for its iconographical representation of angels from the 16th century, was handed back to the Foundation on the 10th of May 2002 by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).
3. A 15th century reliquary, bought in good faith on the art market in 1954 by the private Abegg-Stiftung Museum in Riggisberg Switzerland and returned to the Czartoryski Foundation on the 15th of September 2004 during the official visit of the President of the Republic of Poland Mr. Aleksander Kwasniewski and Mrs. Kwasniewska to Bern.



LADY WITH AN ERMINE
Portrait of Cecilia Gallerani

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Leonardo da Vinci met Cecilia Gallerani in Milan in 1494 while both were living in Castello Sforzesco, the Palace of Ludovico "Il Moro" Sforza. She was the Duke's mistress; young and beautiful (she was only 15 years old), Cecilia played music and wrote poetry. When he was commissioned to paint her portrait in 1496, he represented her holding an Ermine either because her name, Galle, means Ermine in Greek or because Ludovico Sforza's emblem was "L'Ermellino"

When Ludovico Sforza married Isabella D'Este Cecilia had to leave the Palace but took the portrait with her. Il Moro gave her a dowry and a castle outside Milan where she spent the rest of her life with her husband Count Pergamino.



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